

Hafa Adai!

Aspiring physician wins Soroptimist funding award. PAGE 8
FHB listed one of Top 10 banks in America. PAGE 12

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75¢

Kilili to DHS: Increase CW caps

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) is asking Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen to put CW caps back at the 13,000 level to avoid disruption of the Marianas economy and the loss of U.S. jobs.

In a letter to Nielsen this week, Sablan called for a cap of 12,997 for fiscal year 2018 and 12,996 for fiscal year 2019, the same “cut by one” the delegate has previously urged.



Homeland Security has announced limits of 9,998 and 4,999 for those two years, but also left open the possibility of change.

See KILILI on
Page 4

Lunar New Year fete promises grand party

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

In what is being touted as the

Commonwealth's first Lunar New Year party, the committee organizing the event is promising a dazzling celebration in February that will showcase, among many, an acrobatic troupe from China and a parade of dogs to welcome “The Year of the Dog.”

To be held on Feb. 16 and 17, this year's Lunar New Year party will be held at the Garapan Fishing Base, from 5pm to 10pm on both nights, and will feature ethnic food, demonstrations of celestial

See LUNAR on Page 4

China protests Australia criticism of Chinese aid in the Pacific region

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—China has protested an Australian minister's criticisms that Chinese aid programs in poor Pacific island countries were creating “white elephants” that threatened economic stability without delivering benefits.

Senator Concetta Fierravanti-Wells, minister for international development and the Pacific, told *The Australian* newspaper in an interview published on Wednesday that China was lending to Pacific nations on unfavorable terms to construct “useless build-

See CHINA on Page 4

CHCC opens its own pharmacy

By BEA CABRERA
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. officially opened its own pharmacy yesterday,

plugged by corporation officials as a means to address the needs of the CNMI people and the overall healthcare system of the CNMI.

As the overseer of the

healthcare needs of the CNMI, CHCC continues to expand, said CHCC CEO Esther Muña, to become the community's “effective

See CHCC on Page 4



Starting from fourth from left, Rep. Ed Propst, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief financial officer Derek Sasamoto, CHCC CEO Esther Muña, and Rep. Vinson Sablan are surrounded by the nurses and pharmacists assigned at the grand opening of the CHCC Pharmacy located at the ground floor of the CHCC on Navy Hill.

BEA CABRERA

INSIDE



LOCAL

Chief Justice Alejandro C. Castro swears in two employees last Monday.

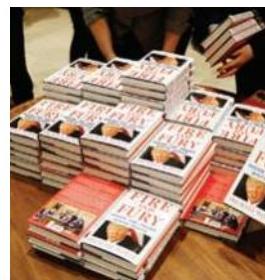
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ASIA

Myanmar's military acknowledges killing Rohingya Muslims in Rakhine.

PAGE 21



LIFE & STYLE

Michael Wolff's “Fire and Fury” was the top-selling book last week.

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Local

Reserve fund bill purposes 'too narrow'

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinaires@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Joseph Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) supports the idea of creating a "rainy day fund" for the Commonwealth, but says the language of the bill that would supposedly create one is too restrictive.

Deleon Guerrero said Tuesday the intention of House Bill 20-100 is something he supports but its language "is not entirely clear."

House Bill 20-100, offered by House Speaker Rafael Demapan (R-Saipan), would create a reserve fund for the Commonwealth in case an economic disaster occurs.

As outlined in the measure, 5 percent of taxes collected every year would be set aside in a reserve fund until fiscal year 2028. It says the collection will be used for economic development and diversification, infrastructure improvements, and medical healthcare facilities. The reserve fund would be handled by a Commonwealth Reserve Fund Investment Board.

Deleon Guerrero said that, upon reading the bill, it does not clarify how the board would utilize the funds for economic growth beyond 2028. A provision in the bill provided that the funds could

be utilized prior to 2028 should the governor declare a state of emergency.

"How this funding is to be used for that intended purpose is not entirely clear," said Deleon Guerrero.

As for using the funds for infrastructure improvements, Deleon Guerrero pointed out that infrastructure improvements are needed now.

"Infrastructure improvements [are] an ongoing need. If roads get damaged, water lines leak, or new homesteads open up, there would be a need for infrastructure costs. By saying that we could only use it for that purpose [in 2028], what do we do about our needs prior to then if we have needs five years from now?" asked Deleon Guerrero.

"The same applies for medical and health facilities," he said, adding that the need for workforce training development is now.

He did stress that he does not question the intent of Demapan's bill; setting aside money for future austerity measures is something he supports, he said.

"I am just saying [this bill] should not be limited to [economic growth, infrastructure improvements, medical and health facility improvements,

See RESERVE on Page 4

Lunar New Year Party

in the Marianas



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Man sentenced to 5 years for possession of 'ice'

By BEA CABRERA
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A man was sentenced to five years in prison last Wednesday in Superior Court for possession of methamphetamine or "ice."

Mariano Quitugua Falig Jr. was sentenced to five years imprisonment without the possibility of parole.

As a mitigating factor, Falig

also relied on his "ice" addiction. However, the court made it clear in the sentencing order that he is not being punished because he is an addict but because he committed a crime of possessing a controlled substance.

In rendering the sentence, Associate Judge Joseph Camacho took note of the restraining order the victim sought against Falig in 2015.

In her application for a restraining order, she stated that Falig's ice use had increased and that he became more verbally and emotionally abusive. At one point, he even threatened to kill the victim and her unborn child. The baby passed away during birth.

Falig was given credit for time served since his arrest in June 2016 and eligible for parole after serving the first four

years of his sentence.

Falig has prior criminal cases in the CNMI and Guam.

On June 8, 2016, Falig was on probation when he was arrested for illegal possession of a controlled substance and unlawful possession of ammunition. His probation in an assault case is set to expire on July 13, 2018.

On June 14, 2016, Falig was charged by the Attorney

General's Office with two counts of illegal possession of a controlled substance and one count of unlawful possession of ammunition.

The Attorney General's Office dismissed one count of illegal possession of a con-

trolled substance on June 15, 2016.

On Sept. 6, 2016, the Attorney General's Office dismissed the charge of illegal possession of ammunition, leaving only one of the three original charges, which is illegal possession of controlled substance, the crime where the recent sentence was based on.

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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

ARCHIVES



ARCHIVAL TREASURES

Edward DLG. Pangelinan, chairman of the Marianas Political Status Commission, recently visited the CNMI archives at Northern Marianas College with former governor Juan N. Babauta. As the Marianas Political Status Commission chair, Pangelinan played an instrumental role in establishing the CNMI. In this photo, Pangelinan stands behind the original copy of the Covenant to Establish [the] Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America. Next to the Covenant is a letter signed jointly by Pangelinan and Vicente N. Santos, president of the Mariana Islands District Legislature, thanking President Gerald Ford following the Covenant's signing. Also in the picture, from left to right, are NMC Director of Library Programs and Services Perry Pangelinan, NMC work study student Lorenzo Attao, archivist John Cook, and Babauta.

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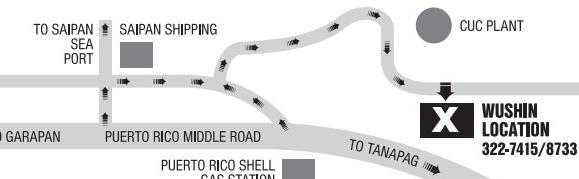
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CHINA**From Page 1**

ings" and "roads to nowhere."

"You've got the Pacific full of these useless buildings which nobody maintains, which are basically white elephants," she told the newspaper.

Fierravanti-Wells later said sustaining debt was a significant threat to economic stability of countries in the Pacific.

"We work cooperatively with China and we encourage China to utilize its development assistance in a productive and effective manner," she told Australian Broadcasting Corp.

"We just don't want to build something for the heck of building it. We just don't want to build a road that doesn't go anywhere," she added.

China's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lu Kang later said Fierravanti-Wells' published comments "show scant regard for the facts and are nothing but irresponsible," adding that China had made an official complaint to

the Australian government.

"For a long time, on the basis of fully respecting the will of the Pacific island countries' governments and people and taking into full account their development needs, China has offered a great deal of assistance to them," Lu told reporters.

Chinese aid had "significantly fueled the economic and social development of these countries and delivered tangible benefits to the local people," assistance that has been warmly welcomed by those countries, Lu said.

"We hope that certain people in Australia should engage in self-reflection instead of pointing fingers at and making irresponsible remarks about other countries," Lu added.

The diplomatic row follows a Chinese protest last month at Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull's announcement that Australia will ban foreign interference in its politics—either through espionage or financial donations. The move was motivated largely by Russia's alleged involve-

ment in last year's U.S. election and China's growing influence on the global political landscape.

The Chinese foreign ministry said then that Turnbull's remarks were prejudiced against China and had poisoned the atmosphere of China-Australia relations.

Australia's opposition foreign affairs spokeswoman Penny Wong said on Wednesday that Fierravanti-Wells' comments demonstrated the Australian government's clumsy approach to foreign policy.

China is Australia's largest trading partner, and the close bilateral relationship has affected Australia's relations with the United States, its closest defense ally.

China transferred at least \$1.8 billion in aid and loans to South Pacific countries in a decade through 2016, the Sydney-based Lowy Institute international policy think tank found.

Jonathan Pryke, director of the Lowy Institute's Pacific islands program, said Fierravanti-Wells' concerns about the terms of the Chi-

nese loans were "quite legitimate."

"One of the big problems about Chinese aid in the Pacific is that a lot of it comes in the form of loans and a lot of those loans, we don't actually know what the conditions are," Pryke said.

Pacific countries including Tonga, Vanuatu and Samoa were "already experiencing significant debt stress as a result of taking out these major loans," he said.

"It does raise significant questions about: will China forgive these loans, what are the actual terms?" he added.

Fierravanti-Wells called on international development agencies including the World Bank and Asian Development Bank to increase their presence in the Pacific.

"The expansion of the World Bank and ADB's loan book to the Pacific is very important because it will afford the opportunities for the banks to have visibility of the existing loan books of the countries and to assess the viability and the sustainability of repaying those loans," she said.

RESERVE**From Page 2**

and emergency declarations]. The bill should also include providing funding for the government to operate and provide essential

services," he said.

After more rounds of discussion, the committee decided to amend H.B. 20-100 to also allow the funds to be used for the continuation of government services in the event of an economic slump.

House Ways and Means

Committee chair Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan) said in an interview that the committee opted to defer the adoption of the bill until the comments of Department of Finance Secretary Larissa Larson are secured.

"...A lot of the members

[of the committee] were concerned about the possible fiscal impact of reserving 5 percent of revenues annually [until 2028]. We would also ask our fiscal analyst team in the Legislature to conduct a cost-benefit analysis on this proposal," said Angel Demapan.

CHCC**From Page 1**

healthcare partner."

"This pharmacy belongs to the people of the CNMI. It is part of an integrated health system that is focused on improving the health of the people of the CNMI. We at CHCC are proud of this opening and look forward to more improvements throughout the hospital and our health system," she said.

Muña pointed out that CHCC does not merely focus on acute care, nor is it just about educating and promoting good health. "CHCC is a health system that must consider everything across the continuum of care," she said.

Muña said the decision to re-open the Commonwealth Health Center's only in-patient pharmacy department was made several years ago "in expectation of new regulations and to ease the daily struggle of those who rely on the health system."

She said the CHCC Pharmacy intends to be "accessible, affordable," and carry a wide selection of medicine and medical supply.

"Rather than have our

focus only on the inpatient side, we also see that hospitals in the U.S. are also looking at running their own outpatient pharmacy. That is something that is part of the trend because they see how healthcare can be more effective that way," Muña said.

She highlighted the testimony and role that Louise Concepcion played in having the opening of the pharmacy a reality.

"She heard our plan to bring better drug pricing and, one afternoon, she called, telling me that, despite of her illness, she wants to advocate for more affordable medication and speak publicly about how the costs of medication can be an obstacle to health.

"Ms. Concepcion is at peace now, but her story lives on, and we honor her today," Muña added.

She was quick to belie the idea that CHCC Pharmacy will be competing with existing medical providers and pharmacies in the region and on island.

"This is not a competition but a collaboration. When you look at CHCC, we work with everyone. We work with Guam Medical Hospital as when they don't have

blood, we share blood and they do the same thing for us," she said. "We don't look at this as a competition with PHI [Pharmacy] either. We look at it as another choice for our patients. ...At the end of the day, when you are living in a remote island, you need to collaborate with your providers."

Rep. Larry Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), who was present during the opening of the CHCC Pharmacy, enumerated three advantages: assist the hospital's outpatients, give patients access to medicines before they leave the hospital, and provide patients access to low-cost medicines.

"Providing medications even before patients leave the hospital has a lot of advantages to it," he said. "However way you look at it, it's a positive move for our community hospital that is for the benefit for our community."

"I heard there are quite a lot more that the hospital has in store for this year and I believe it is going to be a worthwhile endeavor," he added.

Rep. Edwin K. Prost (Ind-Saipan) said the opening of the pharmacy will benefit the public.

"This is a welcome addition and something that is crucial and needed to be celebrated because it is a win-win situation. It gives CHCC an opportunity to earn income but also provide discounted rate for families who struggle with keeping up with healthcare costs," he said.

"This also empowers people because of the choices we now have: CHCC Pharmacy, PHI, and Brabu ...With many families that need to decide whether to pay their CUC bill or get medicine for treatment, now they have options," he added.

Muña said that at CHCC, everything is a priority.

"Because of our cash flow issue, we don't have the luxury to decide which priority is over the other. ...We make a decision based on how it impacts healthcare," she said. "This made us see the opportunity to build an outpatient pharmacy that addresses a population that does not have access to medication and in dire need of a healthcare partner."

CHCC Pharmacy is at the ground floor of CHCC. Business operations are Monday to Friday, from 8am to 6pm, Saturday-Sunday, from 8am to 5pm, and holidays.

LUNAR**From Page 1**

navigation, canoe rides, cultural games, and arts and crafts.

The star of the show will be the Shanghai Sinma Acrobatic Troupe, a group of 27 gymnasts who have performed internationally.

The performances will be free to the public, with 400 seats reserved for select students and their chaperones on the first night, and for the *man'amko* the second night.

The party's planning committee met at the Saipan Mayor's Office yesterday to unveil the event and discuss the preparations made so far.

According to Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, the Marianas Visitors Authority and Betty Bai of the Chinese community of Saipan are leading the preparations of the event, which is intended to rekindle the islands' ancient ties to the moon and the night skies.

Apatang said the ancient Chamorros and Carolinians depended solely on the moon and stars to guide their way when crossing the trackless oceans and the goal for the Lunar New Year party is to bring that feeling back to the indigenous people while allowing tourists a shot at the experience. That explains why the event would also feature celestial navigation and canoe rides.

According to Lunar New

Year Party planning committee member Gordon Marciano, the event started off as a small discussion that later turned into a whole plan, thanks to the support of many.

There will also be a dog parade, in honor of the lunar year animal, the dog, which will have an open registration. All dog owners are invited to join the dog parade, dress their dogs in flashy outfits, and parade them on opening night. Registration for the dog parade is \$5 and T Galleria will match every dollar raised from the parade for donation to the animal shelter of the Saipan Mayor's Office to pay for the shelter's necessities like food.

The dogs from the shelter will also join the parade and will be up for adoption during the event.

There will be canoes in the ocean during the two-day celebration. Tourists and residents will be able to go on either the *Okeanos Marianas*, *Neni*, the *Richard Seaman*, and many more.

The two-day Lunar New Year party will be held at the Garapan Fishing Base on Feb. 16-17, from 5pm to 10pm. The acrobats will also perform on Rota and Tinian on Feb. 15.

The public should expect a fusion of cultures, from the food to the performances, the arts, and even the games and activities.

The committee said it will be Micronesia's largest multi-cultural Lunar New Year party and it will be open to the public.

KILILI**From Page 1**

The department made the sharp cuts, it said, because the Commonwealth-only transitional worker program is scheduled to end at the end of 2019.

"I let the Secretary know that Republicans and Democrats in the House and the Senate are already working together on legislation to go beyond 2019," Sablan said.

"Our goals are to ensure that more and more local workers in the Marianas get jobs, but that foreign workers are still available to fill in the gaps."

Sablan thinks it will be possible to negotiate a bill that has the bicameral and bipartisan support necessary for passage.

"I am working with the same group that got Public Law 115-53 enacted last year," he said.

That Sablan legislation increased training funds for local workers, barred the use of CW permits for new

construction workers, and—for the first time ever—increased the number of CW permits.

"In fact, we started discussions of this longer-term policy even before last year's bill was signed into law.

"So, people are up to speed on the Marianas issues," Sablan said. "And we have built the kind of familiarity and trust that helps any tough negotiation."

In December 2014, Sablan also succeeded at getting the transition program extended for five years, from 2014 to 2019, with Public Law 113-235.

"We have been down this road before," said Sablan. "But it would be foolish to predict success in Congress. There are 541 members of Congress, and anyone who really wanted to could block a bill."

"But we got the transition program extended before. We got Public Law 115-53 enacted last August."

"I think that experience makes success more possible." (PR)

FOR 7TH YEAR

Bank of Guam offers \$10K for college scholarships

» **5 awardees to receive \$2,000 each plus paid summer internship**

HAGATNA, Guam—Bank of Guam is offering graduating high school seniors the opportunity to earn a \$2,000 scholarship to attend college, supplemented by a paid Bank of Guam summer internship.

This is the seventh consecutive year that the bank has offered this opportunity to students in the region.

Applications are now available for its 2018 IFIT Scholarship Program via the Bank of Guam's online website, www.bankofguam.com, and requesting a copy from communications@bankofguam.com.

To be eligible for the program, applicants must reside in Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, or San Francisco, California; be a graduating high school senior, Class of 2018 (copies of transcripts and SAT and/or ACT scores required); submit an application by March 9, 2018, to Bank of Guam, ATTN: Communications Department; submit three letters of recommendation: two from a teacher or administrator from the student's high school and one from a reference of choice; and submit answers to three essay questions (please see brochure for additional rules), and a one-minute video clip about the applicant.

The scholarship will be available for use at any four-year U.S. accredited college or university. Up to 10 semi-finalists will be selected by April 2018 and will then be required to submit additional documents, including an acceptance letter to a U.S. accredited four-year college or university. The final five recipients will be announced by May 2018. (PR)

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Camacho and Tarkong join NMI Judiciary

Chief Justice Alejandro C. Castro swore in two employees—Sonia A. Camacho and Jason T. Tarkong—last Monday, Jan. 8, at the NMI Supreme Court, making them the newest employees of the NMI Judiciary.

Camacho took her oath as director of Courts for the CNMI Judiciary, while Tarkong took his oath as chief marshal.

The oath-taking rites were held before Supreme Court justices, Superior Court judges, court managers, deputy marshals, and other law enforcement officers.

Castro thanked Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog, Senate President Arnold Palacios and members of the Senate, and House Speaker Rafael Demapan and members of the House for providing the needed FTEs and funding for both positions.

"Because of your support," Castro said, "the court is in a better position to deliver efficient and effective judicial services to the people of the Commonwealth. I also thank Sonia Camacho and Jason Tarkong for accepting their position as well as the challenges that lie ahead. I have no doubt that director Cam-



Director of Courts Sonia A. Camacho and chief marshal Jason T. Tarkong are shown here with CNMI Judiciary justices and judges and division managers after they were sworn into office on Monday, Jan. 8, at the CNMI Supreme Court.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

cho and chief Tarkong will fulfill the responsibilities to the best of their abilities."

Camacho has been with the CNMI Judiciary for over 20 years, initially appointed in 1995 by then-Presiding Judge Alejandro C. Castro to serve as a judicial assistant to then-associate judge Edward Manibusan. She has since served through four chief justices and three presiding judges in various capacities.

Prior to her recent appointment, Camacho was

the special assistant to the presiding judge/deputy director of courts and assisted the chief justice as acting director of courts.

She has served in various management teams, supervised chamber assignments, facilitated court programs and projects, oversaw transitional and budgetary initiatives, and assisted with the development of case management strategies.

Camacho's new role will involve the supervision of personnel with the CNMI

Judiciary Administrative Office. She will be overseeing the Judiciary's policy development and planning, court performance monitoring, and assisting with the implementation of the Judiciary's strategic plan, Judicial Council initiatives, and justice programs.

Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio said after the proceeding, "It comes as no surprise that Ms. Camacho was appointed to lead the administration of the courts. Director Cam-

cho is a capable leader with vast experience and institutional knowledge of the courts. What I appreciate most about director Camacho is her ability to foresee not just the proximate but the distal goals of the CNMI Judiciary and to implement the tough decisions. I look forward to continued progress in the Judiciary with her as our Director of Courts."

Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja said about the appointment: "Ms. Sonia is definitely an asset to the

CNMI Judiciary. I am proud of her appointment. She is the best qualified person for the job. She has the institutional knowledge. My colleagues and I wish her the best of luck and congratulate her on the new appointment. Her appointment as the director of Courts will definitely also be a benefit for the Superior Court."

Tarkong joins the CNMI Judiciary after over 25 years in various law enforcement posts with the Commonwealth. Leaving his latest post as a police lieutenant with the Department of Public Safety, Tarkong brings to the Marshal Services Division his experience in investigative and police work and program management.

While at DPS, he had served as officer-in-charge of the Bike Patrol Unit and Sex Offender Registry, Crime Stoppers coordinator, certified firearms instructor, former range master and armorer, public information officer, and SWAT team leader.

Tarkong's new role will involve the supervision of deputy marshals and handling all aspects of court security management, including safety and security protocols for members of the bench, court personnel, service providers, consumers, proceedings, and facilities. (PR)

MD: Camacho and Tarkong join NMI Judiciary

KW: Sonia A. Camacho
Jason T. Tarkong, director of courts, chief marshal

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HRV EX 2WD	HM714229	BLACK	\$3,500
RIDGELINE RT FWD	SOLD	DSTEEL	\$5,000



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F150 XL 2WD	HKC68426	WHITE	\$4,000
F150 XL 2WD	HKC68428	WHITE	\$5,000
EXPLORER XLT SPORT	HGC16261	BLACK	\$4,000
EXPLORER XLT 4WD	GGB38168	WHITE	\$6,000



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ALTIMA SV FWD	HC126488	SILVER	\$4,000
PATHFINDER S 2WD	HC672614	WHITE	\$5,000
TITAN SV 4WD	HN549603	SILVER	\$6,000
ARMADA SV 4WD	H9503293	SILVER	\$6,000



	STOCK #	COLOR	DISCOUNT
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RIO LX FWD	H6034826	YELLOW	\$3,000
SPORTAGE LX 2WD	H7293412	RED	\$3,500
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Aspiring physician wins Soroptimist funding award

By BEA CABRERA
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Ma. Vida Amor Eschaluse is this year's recipient of the "Live Your Dream" funding award given by the Soroptimist International of the Northern Marianas Islands.

She will be presented with the award at the "Live Your Dream" gala on Jan. 19, from 6pm to 9pm, at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan in Garapan.

According to Pam Brown, Soroptimist Ways and Means chair and former CNMI attorney general, the selection was tough because all nine candi-

dates have stellar backgrounds and achievements but the 28-year-old aspiring physician stood out.

"Maria is an amazing young woman. She is the daughter of Filipino contract workers and she came to the CNMI with them. She was educated thoroughly here and in the Philippines," she said.

When Eschaluse returned to the CNMI, she got married, became a U.S. citizen, and had a daughter. Eschaluse then pursued a nursing major at the Northern Marianas College in 2016.

"In her third semester at NMC, she was chosen as a Build Exito Scholar, which is

a research pathway program. She will be taking up a course called BS Health Sciences, which will prepare her to medical school," Brown said.

"Her education pathway is to pursue a doctorate in pathology, leaning toward cellular pathology. Her ultimate career goal is to become a pathologist, studying diseases at a cellular level," Brown added.

She said that Eschaluse met all Live Your Dream's criteria: head of household, financial need, educational goals, career goals, and references.

"Her grades are incredibly good, she got rave reviews from esteemed professors at

NMC like Prof. Lisa A. Lunde and Dr. Beylul Solomon, and she is on her way to pursue a medical career, which is not an easy feat," she said.

The "Live Your Dream" program is considered a major event of the Soroptimist International of Americas. It makes sure that deserving young women who are the heads of the household can further their education by awarding them money that they can use for anything.

"It's not a scholarship as awardees don't have to use it for tuition or books. If they have to pay the rent or the babysitter, they can use it for what their need is. We don't

restrict it," Brown said.

"We had our most ever nine applicants this year. Normally, we get four and we are happy. SINMI received good response to our call to apply. Saipan, Tinian, and Rota were all represented as there was incredible differences in nationalities—U.S. citizens, Chamorro, Korean, Filipino, Chinese, and Japanese descent," she added.

This is the fifth year of the "Live Your Dream" award given by Soroptimist International NMI and they plan to continue the program yearly.

"This is our way of giving back to the community because we all came from very divergent backgrounds. None of us took the straight path to whatever success we have now. We had to go through meandering journeys and people ended up helping us so we are paying it forward by helping this year's awardee," Brown said.

"We don't see it ending and, in fact, we just chartered a club on Palau in October. They're having their 'Live Your Dream' and this shows that we are a dynamic group. We extend our thanks to Bank of Guam as they have been instrumental to make this take off in the Micronesia region," she added.

Everyone is invited to join SINMI to celebrate the achievements and dreams of the 2018 "Live Your Dream" awardee. For tickets, call 234-9480.

Commerce says unemployment rate for US-eligible workers in NMI is at 7.5 percent

In response to several occurrences of inaccurate statistics regarding the actual number of U.S.-eligible workers who are defined as "unemployed," Secretary of Commerce Mark O. Rabauliman issued the following statement:

"As the CNMI government works toward mitigating the effects of the current labor crisis, it is important to the CNMI Department of Commerce and its Central Statistics Division, that dialogue in the community is well-informed with accurate data. Accordingly, with regard to the U.S.-eligible labor population in the CNMI, the recent [Office of Insular Affairs]-funded study, the 2016 Household Income Expenditure Survey, found that the estimated number of U.S. citizens and green card holders defined as "unemployed" represents about 7.5 percent of the current labor force, which also includes CW workers. For instance, according to the survey, there are approximately 1,800 [unemployed] U.S. citizens." (PR)

 COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Kagman High School open house

Kagman High School will be hosting an open House on Wednesday, Jan. 17, 2018, from 5pm to 7pm.

We invite parents to check-in at 5pm in the KHS cafe. They will be escorted to their choice of presentations given by KHS teachers and staff about the programs and initiatives happening at the school. Parents will earn raffle tickets after each presentation they attend. Afterwards, we will be showcasing student talent in the cafe for a closing presentation and raffle with light refreshments.

Parents who attend will earn their children class points towards the class of the year competition! They will also be entered into the end-of-the-year raffle for participating in KHS outreach events. We will have a movie room for younger children so parents can focus on their high school aged kids during the event!

Call 664-3780 for inquiries. (PR)

SSHS report cards out today

Saipan Southern High School would be distributing the second quarter report cards to students during the fourth period class today, Jan. 12. Parents and guardians who need to meet with a teacher or counselor can call the school at 664-4000 to make an appointment. (PR)

Scheduled power outage tomorrow

There will be a scheduled power interruption tomorrow, Jan. 13, 2018, from 7:30am to 12pm, to allow Commonwealth Utilities Corp. line crew to replace three wooden power poles with concrete poles along Chalan Tun Thomas P. Sablan in Chalan Piao.

This is part of an ongoing hazard mitigation project that involves replacing 787 wood poles with concrete poles.

A total of 328 wood poles have already been replaced; the remaining 459 wooden poles will be scheduled for replacement at a later time.

Areas to be affected include Kiya 2 (2" partial); Chalan Tun Thomas P. Sablan in Chalan Piao (Sherwood, Hopwood Middle School, Subway, Mobil Chalan Piao, Gold Ribbon, and Da Bao), Atuhong PI., Alupyang Pl., Juan Nong St., Hamalap Ln., and San Isidro Av.

No water well will be affected but the A-4 wastewater lift station will be affected. The Chalan Piao traffic light will also be affected.

Because of the scale of work that will be performed, CUC asks travelers to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the affected areas.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates. (PR)

Homeless count orientation on Jan. 19

The CNMI Homeless Coalition would be having its point-in-

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time survey (homeless count) orientation on Jan. 19, 2018, from 1pm to 4:30pm at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. The coalition would like to invite anyone who is interested in volunteering for the homeless count. If you may have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact Jacob Muña at 234-7689, 483-9447, or email at jj-muna@nmhc.gov.mp. (PR)

PSS program open house tomorrow

The CNMI Public School System will have an open house for its Career and Technical Education Program tomorrow, Jan. 13, from 10am to 3pm, at three locations: Tanapag Middle School Room F-3 (Saipan), Dr. Rita H. Inos Junior Senior High School Library (Rota), and Tinian Junior Senior High School Library (Tinian).

The public is invited to view materials and provide feedback/ comments for the Career and Technical Education Program instructional materials for review by PSS.

Access to Feedback/Comments online form: <https://goo.gl/forms/8Z2ZHE2FycvhgJPG3>.

For more information, contact CNMI PSS CTE education specialist Jessica Taylor, Ed.D. at jessica.taylor@cnmipss.org

or associate commissioner Jackie Quitugua at jackie.quitugua@cnmipss.org. (PR)

Military training at FDM

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. military will conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla today, Jan. 12, from 11am to 3pm. It is recommended that the public, especially fishermen and marine tour operators, to monitor the U.S. Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be in a 12-nautical mile radius of the island. (PR)

CNMI/Japanese Descent Association reaches out

The CNMI/Japanese Descent Association is reaching out to all local families who are lineal descendants of Japan. The mission of the association is to organize and reinvigorate Japanese cultural heritage in the Northern Mariana Islands. For all members who are interested in joining the association, contact Dave Sablan Sr. at dmsab@aol.com or Norman Tenorio at norten@pacificains.com /cell: 287-0751. (PR)

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NMI Democrats adopt new party bylaws

The elected Central Executive Committee, the governing body of the Democratic Party of the Northern Mariana Islands Inc., adopted new party bylaws at their regular meeting last Jan. 6, 2017.

The new bylaws have been months in the making, according party chair Daniel O. Quitugua, who said NMI Democrats "are now fully organized and getting the groundwork in place for the 2018 general election."

"With Donald Trump in the White House, it is critical that we have strong, capable,

visionary, and trustworthy leadership at the local level. All over America, people are taking control of their communities," Quitugua said. "We intend to make sure the CNMI is no different."

"In fact," he added, "we believe we can be an example to the nation rather than a disdained and neglected fifth cousin the family prefers to pretend isn't there."

"Our community is our society," Quitugua said, "and these values articulated by the national Democratic Party are local values."

In 2016 NMI Democrats became, for the first time, full participants in the national Democratic Party, holding a presidential caucus and attending the Democratic National Convention as equals with the 50 states, other territories and commonwealths. The NMI Democrats had representatives on the Platform Committee, the Rules Committee, and the Credentials Committee at the convention.

"Our delegates attained national prominence and received extensive press coverage, and our delegate to Con-

gress was given floor time to address the entire convention," Quitugua said.

Present at the meeting and unanimously adopting the bylaws were Quitugua, secretary Jonathan Cabrera, treasurer Meling Chargualaf, Democratic National Committee member Nola Hix, Democratic National Committee member Michael A. White, and CEC members Stephen C. Woodruff, Joe Hill, Bobbie Iglesias, Aaron Murdock, Manassess Borja, John Furey, and Glenn Manglona. (PR)

College, career readiness alliance sets '18 priorities

Representatives of the Northern Marianas College and other members of the CNMI Research Alliance for College and Career Readiness and Success recently met to set priorities for 2018 that would help ensure that more CNMI students are ready to succeed as they graduate from high school.

"The discussions that we had at the recent meeting of the alliance was very productive," said NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez. "Key representatives [of] each of the alliance members were able to build on the tremendous progress we have already achieved in order to further advance student success in 2018."

The members of the alliance include NMC, the Public School System, and the CNMI Department of Labor.

Representatives of the CNMI Scholarship Office and the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance program also participated in the alliance meeting.

Fernandez said that NMC's partnership with PSS has already resulted in the launch of new programs that are aimed at helping high school students make a successful transition to college. These programs include the early admissions program, college placement tests being conducted at the high school level, and the strong alignment of curriculum between

the two institutions.

"We continue to make important progress to help ensure that the CNMI ranks high in educational attainment when compared to other states," said Fernandez.

Two of the priorities identified at the recently-held meeting include co-designing English and math courses for 12th graders to help them be better prepared to pass credit-bearing college courses and learning more about and measuring students' social-emotional learning.

The objective of the alliance, which meets quarterly, is to strengthen the collaboration between K-12, college, and workforce sectors in the CNMI and continue to align their improvement efforts. The meeting discussions were informed by studies conducted by the Regional Education Laboratory of the Pacific, in collaboration with the alliance. REL Pacific's priority areas include college and career readiness and success, early childhood education and early reading, and professional learning for teachers.

REL Pacific's representatives—Dr. Phillip Herman, Dr. Daisy Carreon, and Juan Babauta from McREL International—facilitated the alliance meeting. Dr. Paul LeMahieu from the Carnegie Foundation for the Improvement of Teaching was a guest speaker. (PR)



Fernandez

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INVITATION FOR BIDS

NMC IFB 18-004

Construction of an Agricultural Equipment Facility for the NMC-CREES Research Station on Tinian.

Northern Marianas College is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the construction of a "Agricultural Equipment Facility" for CREES Station, Tinian.

Specifications and Scope of Work packages may be picked up at the NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, commencing FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22nd, 2017 between the hours of 9:00-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m.

For Bidder located outside of the CNMI may request a copy of the IFB via fax (670) 235-7601 or email to Anita Camacho (anita.camacho@marianas.edu).

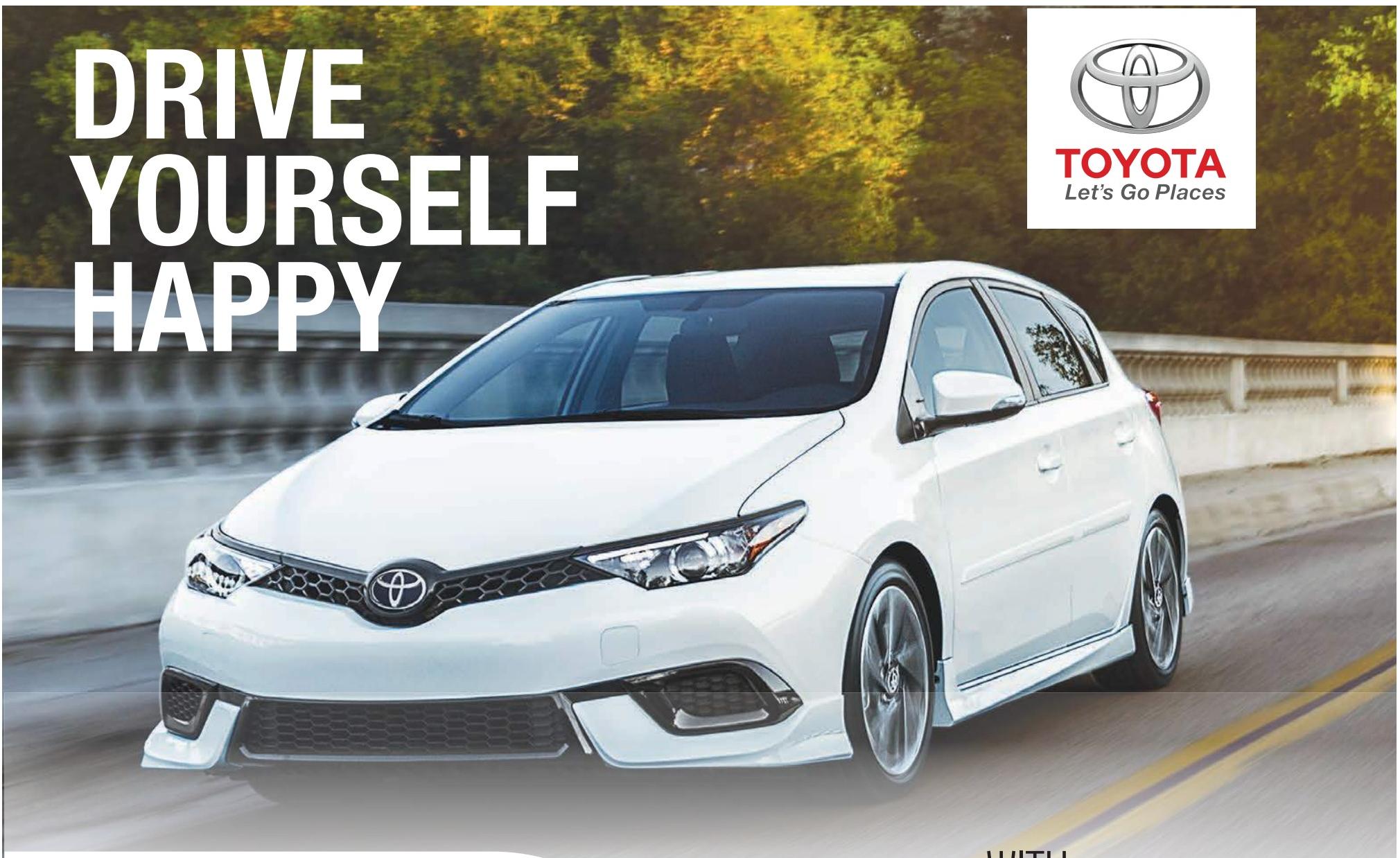
Bid Packages are due no later than 10:00 a.m., JANUARY 22, 2018, at Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus, Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, Saipan, MP 96950. You may request a copy of the NMC IFB 18-003 packet via fax (670) 235-7601 or e-mail to Anita Camacho (anita.camacho@marianas.edu).

Paid for by 100% Federal Funds through the USDA-NIFA authorized under the Hatch Act, as amended August 11, 1955, award # 2017-31100 (Regular).

In accordance with Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, Local Preference is not available to local businesses for this procurement.

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The NMC reserves the right to reject any and/or all bid offers for any reason and waive any defect in said bids, or cancel in part or its entirety this IFB, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College. All costs incurred by the proposer to prepare a response to this solicitation and subsequent inquiries shall be borne by the proposer. All submittals shall become the property of NMC.

/s/ Anita Camacho
NMC Procurement & Property Manager



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2018 CCA Board of Directors & GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING NOTICE

The Commonwealth Cancer Association is inviting the community, cancer survivors, friends, and supporters to its annual general membership meeting on Thursday, January 18, 2018 at 5:30 PM at the CCA conference room in Gualo Rai.

The agenda will include the president's 2017 annual report as well as the treasurer's financial report. Immediately after the presentations, election of two (2) board members will commence. Nominations for board members will be accepted in advance via email and/or on the floor.

To submit a board nomination, or more information contact CCA at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com



Notice of Public Hearing

Saipan Garden Resort

CRM Permit Application No. SMS-2018-X-020

The Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) will be holding a public hearing for the proposed Saipan Garden Resort Project in Tanapag, Saipan.

American Sinopan LLC. Is proposing to construct and operate ten (10) six-story hotel buildings with 1,184 rooms, two (2) six-story service apartments with 180 units, two (2) six-story staff housing with 170 units, five (5) single-story restaurants, three (3) swimming pools, one (1) administrative building, one (1) main hotel lobby, and one (1) generator room on 24.7 acres in Tanapag. In compliance with Section 15-10-020, ASLLC is required to inform adjacent property owners regarding the project hearing.

The public hearing for this project is scheduled for Tuesday, January 23, 2018, at 5:00 p.m. Location will be announced at a later date.

Written comments can be submitted to the DCRM Office, Suite 305, Gualo Rai Center, Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan or mailed to the DCRM, Caller Box 10007 or by fax to 664-8315. The project files are open for review and comments during regular business hours from 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. All written and oral comments received by DCRM will be included as part of the permit application records and will be considered in any decisions concerning the proposed projects. Please contact the DCRM at 664-8300/1 if you have any questions or would like to learn more about the Saipan Garden Resort Project.

/s/ Roger Cheang, ASLLC Asst. GM

FHB listed one of Top 10 banks in America

MAITE, Guam—*Forbes* magazine issued yesterday its annual America's 100 Largest Bank List and First Hawaiian Bank, Hawaii's largest bank, came in ranked at No. 9.

FHB is the only Hawaii bank that made it into the top 10 rank.

This is the first time FHB has been eligible to participate in this *Forbes* bank ranking since it became a public company following its initial public offering in August 2016.

"We are very proud to represent the state of Hawaii, Guam and Saipan as one of the top 10 banks in the country," said Bob Harrison, FHB chairman and chief executive

officer. "Our performance is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our employees who make First Hawaiian the best bank for our customers."

Forbes ranks the 100 largest U.S. banks and thrifts based on 10 metrics that measure a bank's growth, profitability, capital adequacy and asset quality.

The list, which evaluates the strength of a bank, contains total assets, return on average tangible equity, return on average assets, net interest margin, efficiency ratio and net charge-offs as a percent of total loans. To see the complete list visit: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/kurtbadenhausen/2018/01/10/full-list-ranking-americas-100-largest-banks-2018/#67d2b42d3109>

FHB (www.FHB.com) was founded in 1858 as Bishop & Co. and today is Hawaii's leading bank offering a comprehensive suite of banking services to consumer and commercial customers, including deposit products, lending, wealth management, insurance, private banking and trust services. The bank operates 57 branches in Hawaii, three on Guam and two on Saipan. First Hawaiian, Inc., the parent company of FHB, is the largest publicly traded company based in Hawaii. (PR)

Guam woman sentenced for federal firearm, drug crimes

Shawn N. Anderson, U.S. Attorney for the Districts of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands, said in a statement yesterday that Josephine Joann Quintanilla, 37, from Mangilao, was sentenced in the District Court of Guam to 46 months imprisonment for the crimes of drug user in possession of firearms and ammunition and possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine.

The Guam court also ordered three years of supervised release following Quintanilla's term of imprisonment, in addition to the forfeiture of

seven firearms and 98 rounds of ammunition.

Also, defendants convicted of a federal drug offense may no longer qualify for certain federal benefits.

On May 31, 2017, Quintanilla pleaded guilty to two counts in an indictment charging her with drug user in possession of firearms and ammunition and possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine.

The investigation showed that Quintanilla was a regular user of methamphetamine hydrochloride throughout 2016.

A search of her home also re-

vealed drug paraphernalia and scales used to weigh the drug.

During this same period, federal agents learned that Quintanilla possessed and sold firearms and ammunition.

Quintanilla also traveled to California to mail 28.24 grams of methamphetamine to Guam.

The investigation was conducted by the U.S. Postal Service Inspection and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. The case was prosecuted by Rosetta San Nicolas, assistant U.S. attorney. (USAO)



SIS to host wine tasting gala

Saipan International School will be holding its first Wine Tasting Gala at the Hyatt Regency Saipan tonight, Jan. 12, from 6pm to 9pm.

This event was first started by parents at Whispering Palms School and has been a staple event of the winter season on Saipan.

"Saipan International School now benefits from the

dedication of those same parents who have brought their expertise and commitment to SIS," said Mili Saiki, SIS business manager. "SIS is honored to continue this wonderful tradition."

The school hopes to make this an annual event.

SIS will use the proceeds from this event to start on several capital improvement proj-

ects on campus to better serve its students. These include a new fire alarm system and intercom and a full remodeling of the elementary library.

The public is invited to attend the gala. Tickets can be purchased on the campus in As Lito or from SIS volunteers. Contact the SIS office for more details at 288-9660. (*Saipan Tribune*)

670 Sonics to hold pizza fundraiser

The 670 Sonics Basketball Association will be hosting the 670 Sonics Basketball Club's Pizza Night fundraiser on Tuesday, Jan. 16, 2018, from 11am to 10pm. All regular menu items can be purchased at Pizza Hut, Saipan Branch, for this specific date and time only.

Before placing an order,

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- Complimentary beer and soft drinks and discount player evening meals just \$2.99. Weekend buffet lunch for just \$4.99.
- Free player shuttle van - free Pick up and home delivery service.
- Plenty of Free parking in a convenient location.
- Open 7 Days 24 Hours
- Great locals deals with our big discounts of our fabulous Saipan Vegas Resort Rooms.

Location: Middle Road (next to McDonald's) • 24 hours a day • 7 days a week



JOB OPENINGS!!!

We are looking for passionate and energetic people who are customer-focused to be part of our growing team.

ENTERTAINMENT

Entertainment Crew/Life Guard

FRONT OFFICE

Guest Service Officer

Hotel Operator

Disclaimer: Must be able to legally work in the CNMI (Saipan) without needing a work visa. Send resumes to hr@mrisaipan.com or pick up an application at our office from 8am to 5pm, Monday through Friday. Visit us at <http://www.kensingtonsaipan.com/en/>

**SAIPAN
KENSINGTON
HOTEL**

EOE/Drug Free Workplace

Opinion

Saipan Tribune

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Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Don't rip families apart and force hard-working Salvadorans to leave

President Trump's order that 200,000 Salvadoran refugees leave the United States by September 2019 after living here legally for nearly 20 years is mean-spirited in the extreme.

It will make America a weaker and literally a poorer nation: 95 percent of these residents have jobs, and many run their own small businesses, employing others. They are the opposite of a drain on the U.S. economy. In California, 50,000 would be ripped from the fabric of communities they thought were home.

And think of this: Most have U.S.-born children. Imagine the agony of having to choose between leaving them behind, as citizens, and taking them to a country whose national homicide rate is 17 times the global average. Competing gangs—the Barrio 18 and the Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13)—wage civil war daily on the streets. Peaceful residents often are the casualties.

The Salvadorans came to the United States in 2001 after the 7.7 earthquake that killed 944 people, destroyed more than 100,000 homes and left the majority of residents without clean water and basic sanitation.

It was a horror. But for different reasons today, El Salvador is still a horror. Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen's contention that conditions have improved significantly is either ignorant or dishonest.

Salvadorans aren't the only targets. Some 30,000 Haitians have been told to return to their desperately poor homeland. Honduran and Nicaraguan refugees also are in the crosshairs. This pleases Trump's base, since the refugees are people of color and came here with nothing.

But it's a sad day for what once were American values.

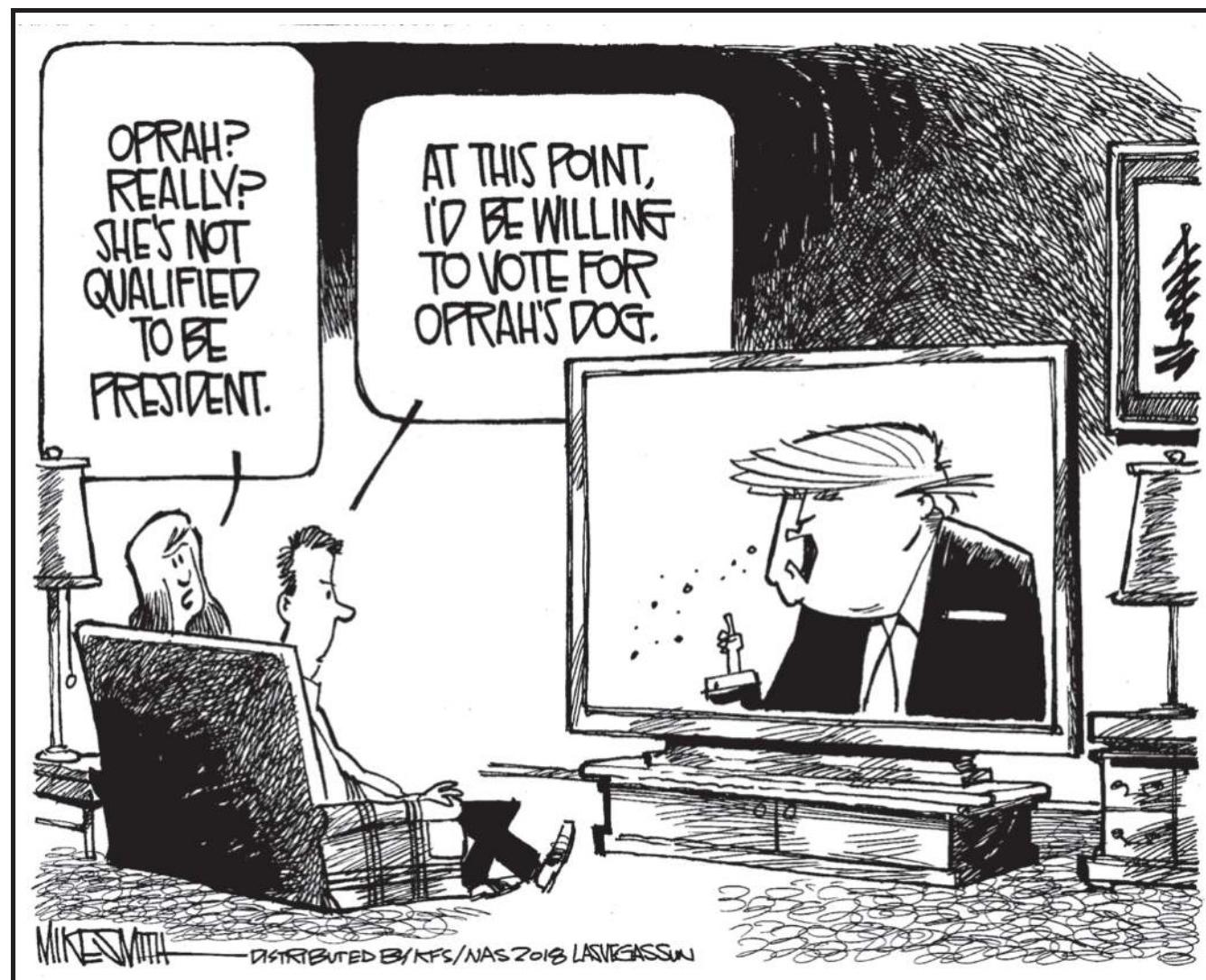
The designation of "Temporary Protected Status" for refugees, which is renewed every 18 months, implies that deportation is possible. But previous presidents understood that the potential to build a better life here is what makes the system work.

Imagine refugees' motivation to find work, stay out of trouble and improve their families' standing. That's why Salvadorans have an unemployment rate significantly lower than average. They are valuable construction workers, child care providers, gardeners and restaurant workers—or owners. Like most waves of immigrants, their children will be better educated and qualified for higher level jobs.

Now imagine refugees arriving here knowing that they could be shipped back any time. Why bother to become part of communities they'll only be forced to leave?

Accepting refugees has a substantial up-front cost. Most arrive not knowing the language or bringing personal wealth. They need help. But over time their hard work repays that American generosity.

See SALVADORAN on Next Page



A fruitful substitute for forbidden words

Washington's corps of video-pundits celebrated 2017's final daze by fixating on North Korea's nukes, Republicans' disarray and Democrats' discombobulation. Then they eased seamlessly into their 2018 obsession over President Donald Trump's "Fire and Fury," as told by his fired and furious.

But inside the traditionally cheerless chambers and cubicles of the federal bureaucracy, newly arrived TrumpWorld ideologues and their career-professional colleagues ended 2017 with a clash of cross words over banned words that never really received the insightful help only a certified pundit can provide. Until now. For I have not only seen this problem once before – but I remember how a senior official solved it by devising a creative workaround.

As controversies go, this Trump administration version is one that (to paraphrase poet Robert Frost), couldn't be called ungentle, but how thoroughly departmental – and governmental. We might never have known about this except it was revealed in a scoop by The Washington Post's Lena H. Sun and Juliet Eilperin.

At a budget meeting with senior officials in the Atlanta headquarters of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention last month, policy analysts were reportedly told by a senior official that they are now prohibited from using seven words and phrases in official documents and presentations: "vulnerable," "entitlement," diversity," transgender," "fetus," "evidence-based" and "science-based." The official was relaying instructions from higher-ups. CDC is overseen by the Department of Health and Human Services.

The guidance, as delivered to the policy analysts, reportedly included one suggested workaround. Instead of "evidence-based" or "science-based," the analysts were encouraged to say: "CDC bases its recommendations on science in consideration with community standards and wishes." Whatever that means.

The Post scoop quoted an unnamed longtime CDC analyst who said: "In my experience, we've never had any pushback from an ideological standpoint." The analyst said others in the room were "incredulous" at hearing about the Trump administration's forbidden words, adding: "It was very much, 'Are you serious? Are you kidding?'?"

My reaction was a bit different: Where's Alfred Kahn when we really need him?

Actually, we know the answer. Kahn, a highly-respected economist and regulatory scholar, who was the architect of President Jimmy Carter's deregulation of the airline industry, died in 2010 at age 93. But to describe Kahn in just those terms – or even to say he also reluctantly agreed to serve as Carter's White House

By MARTIN SCHRAM
Tribune News Service

Martin Schram, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, is a veteran Washington journalist, author and TV documentary executive. Readers may send him email at martin.schram@gmail.com.



inflation czar, as head of the Council on Wage and Price Stability—is to miss the essence of this unique figure in resolving mundane matters of governance.

For Kahn became a superhero of those of us who had yearned in vain for straight-talk from an economist—a skill that was enhanced by the fact that he also possessed a world-class Groucho Marx moustache and a world-class talent for quick-draw quips. The combination somehow enabled him to be able to technically obey a presidential word-ban – while smashing it to de-facto smithereens, in a way that left even his outraged bosses laughing.

One day in 1978, Carter was said to have been furious that Kahn had publicly warned of the importance of preventing a "recession," Kahn was told to avoid using the term, lest he generate a climate leading to an economic downturn. So Kahn came up with a euphemism—instead of "recession" he using the word "banana."

As in: "Between 1973 and 1975 we had the deepest banana that we had in 35 years, and yet inflation dipped only very briefly."

Soon Kahn encountered another presidential objection – the president of United Fruit Company chided him for denigrating bananas. So instead, Kahn started saying "kumquat."

With inflation topping 10 percent in 1979, Kahn, who had large problems and no staff, wanted to leave his job. At one point he famously joked: "I can't figure out why the president doesn't fire me." (He paused.) "Actually, I do know. Nobody would be foolish enough to take this job."

Which brings me back to the CDC. Predictably, after the Post's scoop appeared, the CDC's new director, Dr. Brenda Fitzgerald, faced a wave of criticism – from both inside and outside her agency. She did not refute the account of what policy analysts had been told at that meeting. But she quickly tweeted a denial that any such thing was now the CDC policy.

"I want to assure you there are no banned words at CDC," said the new director.

How do you like them pineapples?

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Got splinters?

Many *Saipan Tribune* readers are part of the SOHO (small office and home office) world. I'm a long-time SOHO guy myself. As the new year rolled onto the calendar I was mid-stream in a project to custom-build some furnishings for my office. The big question was this: Can a total carpentry know-nothing produce functional SOHO furnishings?

I finally have the answer. It's "yes." Sick of your office? You can probably fix a lot of it yourself.

Let's make that a qualified "yes." My current SOHO is a get-your-work done sort of office, as opposed to a more polished meet-with-clients sort of space. Functionality, not professional polish, was my goal. I will, however, note that everything came together square, level, and tightly fit. I can deal with simple. I won't, however, suffer shabby.

It took three basic power tools (a circular saw, a cordless drill, and a jigsaw), along with various accouterments for measuring and marking, to get this done. And if I can do it, then anyone can.

I've taken two steps. The first was to build a four-tier console that covers an entire wall from top to bottom. It serves as a bookshelf, as a platform for a printer and stationary, and as a storage area for boxes of office supplies. The second step was to build a long, narrow table that runs along a wall.

The long table is supposed to provide a surface for arranging documents so I can do impressive things. Somehow, though, it got covered in my collection of Merle Haggard CDs.

Come to think of it, I haven't done anything remotely impressive since 1982. So I'm thinking that impressive can wait a little

while longer. There's no need to defile a fresh new year by trying to force things.

Anyway, the next, and final, step will be to build a desk that will tie together the ensemble. That's a great word, "ensemble." It adds some class to my entirely classless operation.

I did my marking, sawing, and sanding in the garage. Then I carted everything over to my SOHO workspace where I screwed everything together using the cordless drill as a driver.

During the entire process I didn't encounter any big problems, but everything took a lot longer than I anticipated. This didn't bother me, since part of the reason I embarked on the project was to putter around at a slow pace and ignore the demands of the fast-paced world.

For example, when I assembled the first three parts of the wall console, it took me about an hour to set the pieces square before I fastened them together. Lacking any coherent methodology for this situation, I addressed it with my true specialty: blunt-headed trial-and-error.

And so I patched things together, took measurements, shook my head in dismay, took the pieces apart, then started all over again. I did this dozens of times. When, by pure dint of randomness, everything finally jibed, I held my breath and fastened the pieces together. Everything else went smoothly from that point on.

When I was in the cutting phase I marked the lumber to show where the factory cuts were. This was under the theory that they'd be more square than my cuts were. After all, a newbie with a circular saw ain't exactly going to give Pythagoras a run for his money. This extra degree of pessimism allowed me to

By ED STEPHENS

Special to the *Saipan Tribune*

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the *Saipan Tribune*.



strategically match things together during assembly to make the early fits as square as possible.

On the fastener note, before I got the project rolling, I did some experiments with scrap wood. The types of screws you'd use with a normal screwdriver (slotted- or Phillips-head) didn't work nearly as well as the star-headed ones ("Torx"). I also experimented to get a feel for how small my pieces of wood could be before they'd run the risk of getting split by the fasteners.

Having realized that fasteners were going to be an important part of the equation, I ultimately wound up spending more on screws than I did on my circular saw. As for the smaller pieces of wood, I drilled pilot holes in them before driving the fasteners and this prevented splitting.

Well, such are the highlights of the project. I encountered no pitfalls, no jokers, no bad surprises. In summary, this stuff is doable.

To my fellow SOHO operators who are contemplating improving their spaces, I say: Come on in, the water's fine.

Repeating failure

It wasn't long ago when the apparel industry here was shut down via the collective effort of the U.S. garment industry in search for an even playing field in competition. The industry pressed the U.S. Congress for it.

Unfairness includes: 1). Paying far less than the federal minimum wage then. 2). We don't pay federal taxes like stateside apparel companies do annually.

There was methodical paralysis implemented with the pull of the rug, known here as local control of immigration, that permanently shuttered the industry. Came the inclusion of China in the World Trade Organization that gave it an even shot at global competition. It's all about fair competition that took an action of the U.S. Congress to bring the NMI to its knees.

Now, take a critical look at the casino business here that is headed down the same path: 1). Doesn't pay federal taxes while those in the U.S. pay their share. 2). Casino income isn't taxed, unlike places like Macau that imposes a 39-percent tax on money rolling across the table. 3). Untaxed casino money in the billions is repatriated to China or elsewhere without a penny accruing to either the federal or local treasury.

Obviously, this anomaly doesn't grant the U.S. casino industry any room to maneuver so it keeps more of the income it generates. It's unfair to the industry across the sea, no matter how you dice, splice or slice it. Would U.S. casino industry firms keep silent at this woefully unfair level of competition? Wouldn't they bring this to the attention of their representatives in the U.S. Congress for some legal remedy?

SALVADORAN

From Page 14

Salvadorans are being discarded just at the time the American investment is paying off.

Instead, the U.S. should encourage refugees to apply for lawful permanent resident status after a period of years and, eventually, for citizenship. This would heighten rather than undercut the incentive to be valuable, law-abiding, productive, taxpaying residents.

This president won't go there. But an enlightened Congress could change the law.

The negative effect of this anomaly would adversely affect us when Congress uses its fine-toothed comb on all entitlement assistance, including the millions of dollars for basic infrastructure the NMI begs for annually. I wouldn't doubt they'd tighten the nook until this side of the Pacific responsibly imposes reasonable income tax on all pennies, nickels and dimes rolling across betting tables in downtown Garapan. Fiscal sufficiency is a major part of self-government, *di ba?*

Hush! Policymaking is an interesting fiduciary duty that extends beyond the chambers of the Legislature or administration building. I would be demonstrating how tailbones upstairs are hidden and hooked to tailgates of generous sugar daddies feeding our esteemed folks on the hill. It's what I call "unaccountability" where the elected elite decides issues without our participation.

Home: A stubborn issue that keeps popping up pertains to the first family home. Folks from all walks of life have worked long and hard to build what we all call "home." It's a place where children make lasting memories growing up until they establish their own elsewhere. Home is central to strengthening the family unit and our community.

It isn't the sentimental aspect of home that I find troubling as much as the ability of our people to pay for it throughout the duration of the loan that runs about 20-30 years. I remember the pain of being jobless and came close to losing the only family home I had in the mid-'80s. It was a devastating thought until I found job and resumed payment. It took a loss of another property to make up for it.

It raises valid questions, like how many of those who have taken home loans in recent past could actually make it through the duration? Have you taken out real estate or life insurance to cover such cost in the event of death so your family isn't instantly homeless? What are the chances of your holding on to your current job and have you checked your astrology if you'd be healthy for another 20 years?

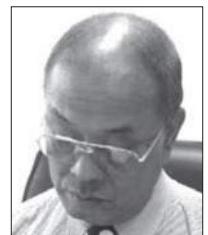
That I have seen the depth of joblessness against the obligation to pay for the only family home forces this discussion so all may begin reviewing what lies ahead beyond *mañana*. Is there a better way to building a safe, secure and sanitary family home beyond humongous institutional loans?

Yes! With a little creativity and ingenuity we could raise the sail on our canoe for an all-day fishing trip in the deep blue, assured of coming home with tons of catch for everyone.

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the *Saipan Tribune*

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the *Saipan Tribune* and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the *Saipan Tribune*.



Friends, one can never forget the familiar sounds and sights of home, e.g., echo of the northern trade winds at a distance, the waves working up a storm in the Philippine Sea, the rainbow chasing dark clouds into the sunset; and melodic bird songs in marshland around Susupe Lake.

Sunshine: We come from the tropics where there's plenty of sun, sea, and sand. We frolic and fish in the water when we want to do so for fun and sustenance. There's plenty of sunshine!

At the same time we quiz if there's sufficient sunshine in the people we've elected to represent us up on the hill? How many are faithfully humming *Silent Night* all night?

You watch them as the party moves through the night. They lose the ability to speak with simple common sense as they load themselves with alcohol out of frustration. They finally had to be assisted as they wobble to their cars to head home, singing a garbled version of their *Felis Navidat*.

■ ■ ■

Inconsistency: The business community here wants a CW extension and is hopeful of its adoption by summer, a position riddled with contradiction.

The NMI has a 21-percent unemployment rate or 1,500 unemployed locals. So how does the business sector justify extension when it is also half the problem of unemployment here?

The redundant chorus reminds me of an adage by Mark Twain, "Everybody talks about the weather," he said, "but nobody does anything about it."

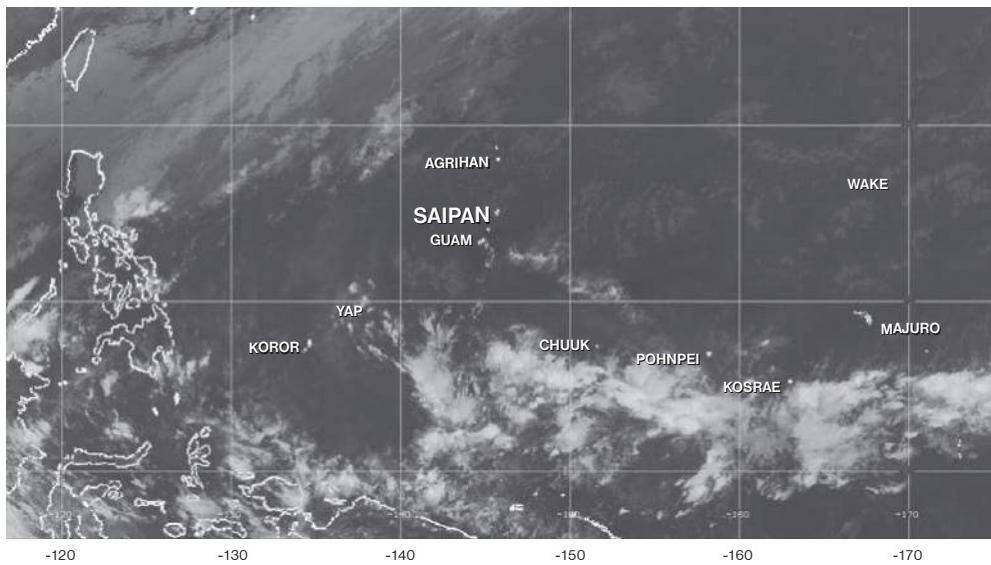
Understood the heavy expense involved in training locals plus the obligation that they are paid higher per federal minimum wage law over CWs. But then doing is known as assimilation, where the business community becomes a part of the local community. Or is this too difficult a concept?

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 88° ▼ 77°	▲ 88° ▼ 78°	▲ 88° ▼ 77°	▲ 87° ▼ 77°	▲ 87° ▼ 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:02 AM, THURSDAY, JANUARY 11, 2018

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Little change made to the forecast with an update of winds with new model data being the only change. Computer models show no large scale weather features passing over the Marianas through the forecast. Deep-layer moisture will be lacking with 700 Mb relatively humidity staying at or below 50 percent through mid-week next week. Expect only a slight chance of showers through tonight. Models show a few small patches of showers passing over the Marianas, but with moisture lacking only isolated showers and a few clouds are all that will be seen. Winds of 10 to 20 mph will persist through the weekend.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲	▼	°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	87°	/	78°
Palau	Thunderstorms	84°	/	77°
Yap	Thunderstorms	84°	/	78°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85°	/	79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85°	/	78°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85°	/	78°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	84°	/	80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲	▼	°F
Auckland	Showers	75°	/	66°
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	37°	/	18°
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	61°	/	55°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	84°	/	65°
London	Partly Cloudy	43°	/	39°
Los Angeles	Sunny	74°	/	54°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	82°	/	73°
Melbourne	Windy	72°	/	57°
Miami	Showers	78°	/	63°
New York	Rain	59°	/	52°
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	45°	/	32°
Paris	Cloudy	45°	/	36°
Busan	Sunny	43°	/	27°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	57°	/	39°
Salem	Rain	62°	/	33°
San Francisco	Foggy	55°	/	46°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	37°	/	21°
Tokyo	Sunny	45°	/	30°
Washington, DC	Rain	63°	/	53°



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET		
5:36 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.46
10:18 AM	LOW TIDE	1.09
3:58 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.83
11:32 PM	LOW TIDE	0.04

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:46 AM	6:04 PM
Saturday	6:46 AM	6:04 PM
Sunday	6:46 AM	6:05 PM
Monday	6:46 AM	6:05 PM
Tuesday	6:46 AM	6:06 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	2:34 am	2:23 pm	-
Saturday	3:23 am	3:06 pm	-
Sunday	4:12 am	3:51 pm	-
Monday	5:01 am	4:38 pm	-
Tuesday	5:49 am	5:26 pm	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 19, 2017

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA6394 4:15am 5:05am Daily				UA6393 2:45am 3:35am Daily			
UA6392 8:40am 9:30am Daily				UA6395 7:15am 8:05am Daily			
UA6391 1:30pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota				UA6391 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7			
UA6390 2:20pm 3:10pm 2, 3, 6				UA6390 12:10pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6 via Rota			
UA6398 6:05pm 6:55pm Daily				UA6397 4:45pm 5:35pm Daily			
UA6396 9:50pm 10:40pm Daily				UA6399 8:30pm 9:20pm Daily			
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)				GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA6391 1:30pm 2:05pm 1, 4, 5, 7				UA6390 12:10pm 12:45pm 2, 3, 6			
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA6391 2:35pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7				UA6390 1:15pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6			
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL297 4:20pm 7:15pm Daily				DL298 10:30am 3:05pm Daily			
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451 3:10am 6:10am 1, 7				7C3452 9:00pm 2:10am+1 4			
7C3451 4:00am 7:05am 4, 5				7C3452 9:05pm 2:10am+1 3, 6, 7			
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308 2:00am 6:05am Daily				7C3402 9:30am 3:00pm Daily			
OZ626 2:10am 6:00am 1				OZ625 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7			
OZ626 2:50am 6:40am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7				TW307 7:45pm 1:00am+1 Daily			
LJ65							

THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN IS SEARCHING

for remains of the Japanese fallen during WWII

Today, the surviving families of the Japanese who died overseas during war are hopeful the remains of their loved ones will one day return home.

Approximately 70,000 Japanese servicemen and civilians lost their lives in the Northern Marianas Islands during World War II. According to the studies obtained by the Government of Japan, the remains of about 31,350 have yet to be repatriated.

Island	Died during War	Repatriated	Unfound
Saipan	55,300	29,160	26,140
Tinian	15,500	10,290	5,210

Caution: It is unlawful for any person to excavate, dig or look for the remains of a human body without a permit obtained by the CNMI Government.

If you have any suspicion of remains on your property, please contact the Japan Associate for Recovery and Repatriation of War Casualties (JARRWC). An association designated and guided by the Japanese Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare to implement the recovery and repatriation of military personnel and civilian remains.

(JARRWC in Saipan)

Tel: (670) 285-7283
Email: jarrwc.saipan@gmail.com
P.O. Box 506369 CK, Saipan, MP 96950

(JARRWC in Tinian)

Tel: (670) 287-2857
Email: jarrwc.tinian@gmial.com
P.O. Box 520740 Tinian, MP 96952

(JARRWC Main)

Tel: (81-3) 3581-2755 Fax: (81-3)6206-1880
Email: jigyoub@jarrwc.jp

**J
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Business

Immigration agents descend on 7-Eleven stores in 17 states

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Seven immigration agents filed into a 7-Eleven store before dawn Wednesday, waited for people to go through the checkout line and told arriving customers and a driver delivering beer to wait outside. A federal inspection was underway, they said.

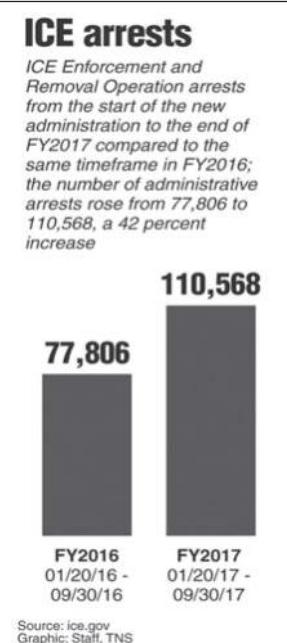
Within 20 minutes, they verified that the cashier had a valid green card and served notice on the owner to produce hiring records in three days that deal with employees' immigration status.

The well-rehearsed scene, executed with quiet efficiency in Los Angeles' Koreatown, played out at about 100 7-Eleven stores in 17 states

and the District of Columbia, a rolling operation that officials called the largest immigration action against an employer under Donald Trump's presidency.

The employment audits and interviews with store workers could lead to criminal charges or fines. And they appeared to open a new front in Trump's expansion of immigration enforcement, which has already brought a 40 percent increase in deportation arrests and pledges to spend billions of dollars on a border wall with Mexico.

A top official at U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement said the audits were "the first of many" and



director of the CFPB, a preliminary injunction that would have stopped Mick Mulvaney, Trump's budget director, from taking on a second role as acting director of the agency.

This is the second time Kelly ruled has against English, who sought an emergency restraining order against Mulvaney to keep him from taking over the agency. In that first ruling last month, Kelly, a Trump ap-

"a harbinger of what's to come" for employers.

"This is what we're gearing up for this year and what you're going to see more and more of is these large-scale compliance inspections, just for starters," said Derek Benner, acting head of ICE's Homeland Security Investigations, which oversees cases against employers.

"It's not going to be limited to large companies or any particular industry—big, medium and small," he said.

After the inspections, officials plan to look at whether the cases warrant administrative action or criminal investigations, Benner told The Associated Press.

7-Eleven Stores Inc., based in Irving, Texas, said in a statement that the owners of its franchises are responsible for hiring and verifying work eligibility. The chain with more than 8,600 convenience stores in the U.S. said it has previously ended franchise agreements for owners convicted of breaking em-

ployment laws.

Unlike other enforcement efforts that have marked Trump's first year in office, Wednesday's actions were aimed squarely at store owners and managers, though 21 workers across the country were arrested on suspicion of being in the country illegally.

NYC halts \$9.6M incentive package to move Aetna to city

NEW YORK (AP)—New York City is halting a \$9.6 million incentive package offered to Aetna to move its headquarters to the city.

tion with CVS. In a statement Wednesday night, the company said it didn't have anything else to add to that.

"We had a preliminary agreement that still needed formal approval, and we can't get that approval if they can't positively affirm to us that the relocation is happening," said Stephanie Baez, a spokeswoman for the New York City Economic Development Corp. "They can always come back to us once they've made the decision."

Aetna, the nation's third-largest health insurer, has a workforce of almost 50,000 and employs about 6,000 people in Connecticut. It traces its roots in Hartford to 1819.

Court rules in favor of Trump over fate of consumer watchdog

NEW YORK (AP)—A federal judge ruled late Wednesday in favor of President Donald Trump and the White House over the control of the national financial watchdog agency, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

In a 46-page opinion, Judge Timothy Kelly denied Leandra English, the deputy

English as his replacement. In response, the White House named Mulvaney as the replacement for Cordray.

pointee who took the bench last year, expressed skepticism about whether English would prevail in her case.

"Because the court has determined that English is not likely to succeed on the merits, the balance of the equities would necessarily weigh against granting her an injunction," Kelly said in his opinion.

At that time, Aetna said all of its locations would be evaluated as part of its integra-



**COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

INVITATION FOR BID PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-002-18

SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT SOLID WASTE COLLECTION SERVICES

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed bids for **Solid Waste Collection Services** for the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The **bid package** containing all the specifications, date of pre-bid meeting, and other requirements will be available at the Accounting Office, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Departure Building beginning **December 22, 2017** upon payment of **\$100.00**. All responses to this IFB shall take into account any costs that will be charged to the bidder awarded the contract for the project. Bidders shall also take into consideration all necessary bidding requirements and fees for this project.

Bids will be received at the office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport until **2:00 PM LOCAL TIME, Friday, January 12, 2018**. Bids are to be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked: "Bid for Solid Waste Collection Services at the Saipan International Airport, Project No. CPA-IFB-002-18". Bidders are to submit one (1) original and three (3) copies.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Invitation For Bids; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: _____



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-18-009

ALTERNATIVE POTABLE DRINKING WATER DISINFECTION SYSTEM INSTALLATION

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for the Alternative Potable Drinking Water Disinfection System Installation Project in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

General Description: This work consists of installation of alternative potable drinking water disinfection systems at five (5) potable drinking water disinfection points in the CNMI, one (1) on the island of Rota, one (1) on the island of Tinian, and three (3) on the island of Saipan. These systems will be evaluated as part of an expanded, one-year pilot-study of alternatives to chlorine gas disinfection. The contractor will be responsible for installation of the automated disinfection systems as well as provision of disinfectant products and any other necessary consumables during the one-year contract period.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$50.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and scope-of-service will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-18-009, Alternative Potable Drinking Water Disinfection System Installation" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **February 6, 2018 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A **Proposal Guarantee** of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A **Payment Bond** of one hundred (100%) percent and a **Performance Bond** of one hundred (100%) percent of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposer. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discuss and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The Offeror does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: <https://marianaslabor.net/>. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 22, 2018** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAM
Purchasing Officer

Trump: ‘Unlikely’ he’d submit to a Russia probe interview

WASHINGTON (AP)— President Donald Trump says that it “seems unlikely” that he’d give an interview in spe-

cial counsel Robert Mueller’s investigation into potential coordination between Russia and the Trump campaign.

Trump said “we’ll see what happens” when asked if he’d provide an interview to Mueller’s team.

“When they have no collusion and nobody’s found any collusion at any level, it seems unlikely that you’d even have an interview,” Trump said Wednesday during a joint news conference with the prime minister of Norway.

The special counsel’s team of investigators has expressed interest in speaking with Trump, but no details have been worked out. Trump’s lawyers have previously stated their determination to cooperate with requests in the probe, which has already resulted in charges against four of Trump’s campaign advisers.

Trump called the investigation a “phony cloud” over his administration.

“It has hurt our government,” he said. “It was a Democrat hoax.”

Trump’s words differed from what he said at a news conference in June, shortly after fired FBI Director James Comey had told Congress that Trump asked him for a pledge of loyalty. Trump denied that, and said he’d be “100 percent” willing to tell his version of events under oath. He said he’d be “glad to” speak to Mueller about it.

The comments come after Trump had already lashed out at the investigations on Twitter Wednesday morning, urging Republicans to take control of the inquiries and repeating his claim that they are on a “witch hunt.”

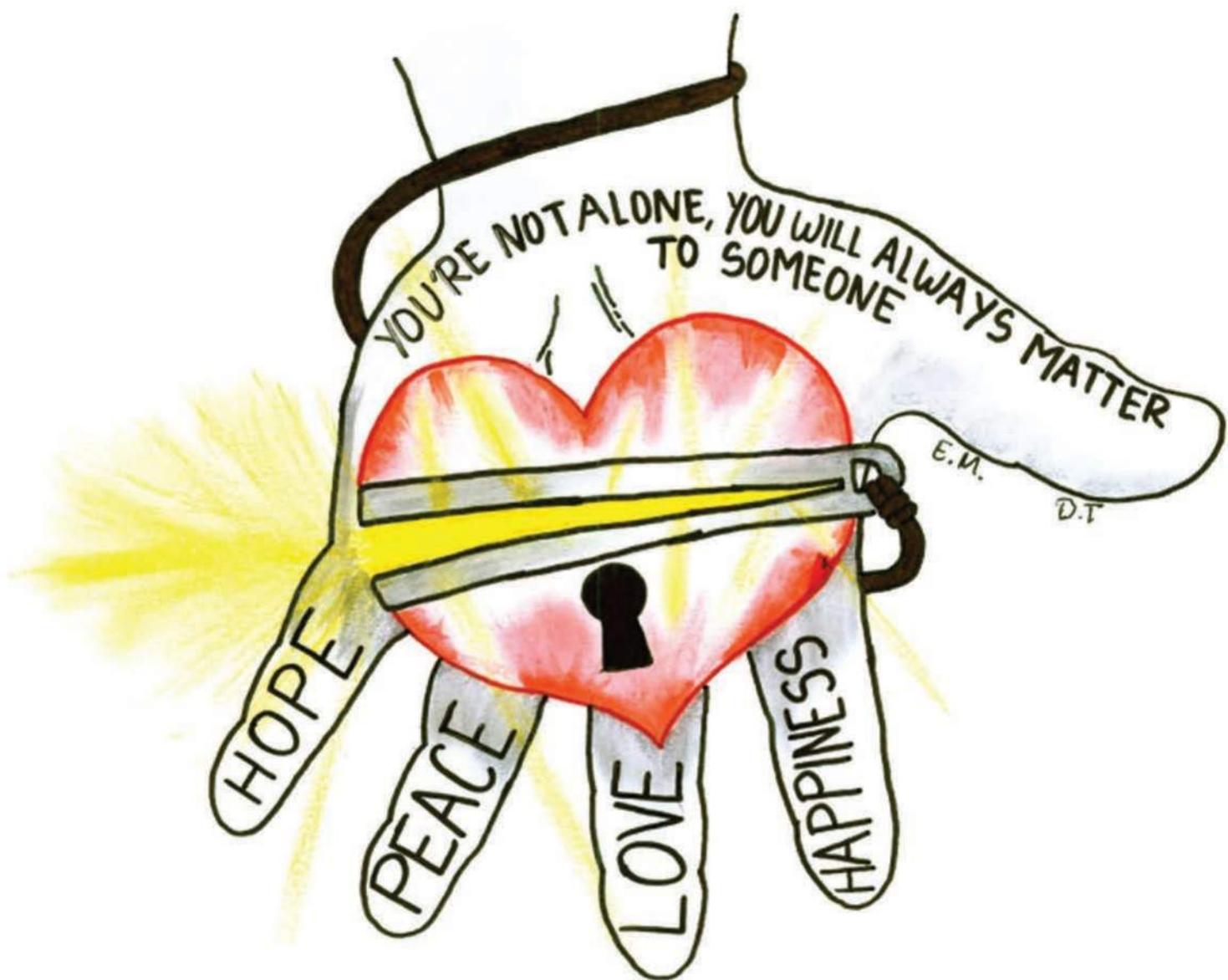
“There was no collusion, everybody including the Dems knows there was no collusion, & yet on and on it goes,” he tweeted. “Russia & the world is laughing at the stupidity they are witnessing. Republicans should finally take control!”

In a separate tweet Wednesday morning, Trump accused Democratic Sen. Dianne Feinstein of being “underhanded and a disgrace” for disclosing details of a dossier of allegations about his ties to Russia during the presidential campaign.

A day earlier, Feinstein, who faces a primary challenge in her re-election this year, released the transcript of the Senate Judiciary Committee’s closed-door August interview with an official from the political opposition research firm Fusion GPS, which commissioned the dossier. She released the transcript of Glenn Simpson’s interview over the objections of the committee’s Republican chairman, Iowa Sen. Chuck Grassley. She is the top Democrat on the panel.

“The fact that Sneaky Dianne Feinstein, who has on numerous occasions stated that collusion between Trump/Russia has not been found, would release testimony in such an underhanded and possibly illegal way, totally without authorization, is a disgrace,” Trump tweeted. “Must have tough Primary!”

“It’s just a bad day,



not a bad life.”

By:
Eritana Dela Cruz, 18
12th, Kagman High School
and
Dan Tumada, 18
11th, Kagman High School

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Asia

Myanmar: Soldiers, villagers killed Rohingya in mass grave

BANGKOK (AP)—Myanmar's military acknowledged Wednesday that its security forces and Buddhist villagers killed 10 Rohingya Muslims whose bodies were found in a mass grave in a village in troubled Rakhine state.

The public admission of wrongdoing is the military's first since it launched "clearance operations" against ethnic Rohingya in August, prompting more than 650,000 to flee into neighboring Bangladesh in what the United Nations has called "ethnic cleansing."

A statement on the military commander-in-chief's Facebook page said the Rohingya

found in the mass grave had threatened Buddhist villagers and were killed in retaliation.

The U.N. and other groups accuse the military of widespread atrocities against Rohingya, including killings, rapes and the burning of homes. But the military has insisted that there has been no wrongdoing by any security forces.

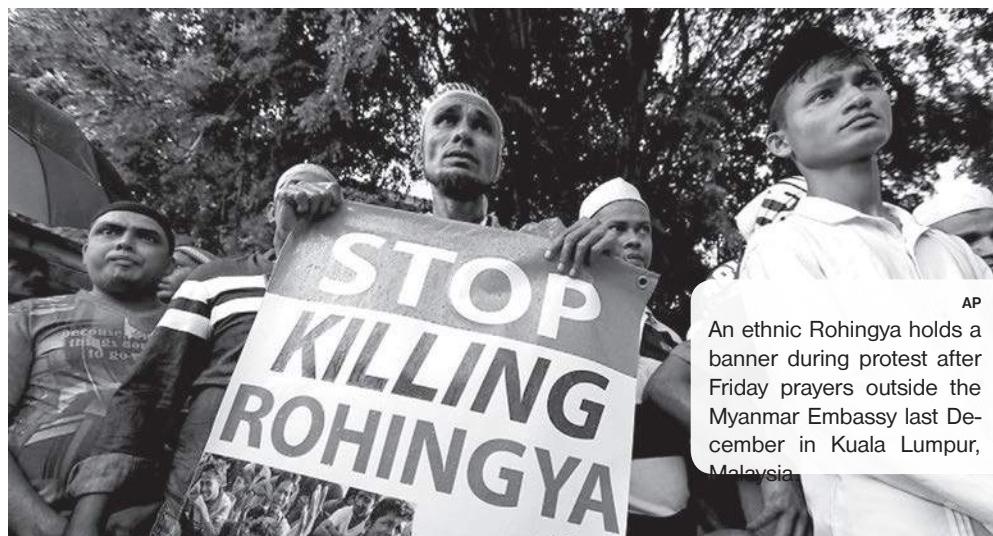
The government of Buddhist-majority Myanmar has refused to accept Rohingya Muslims as a minority group, even though they have lived in the country for generations. They are widely called "Bengalis" and are accused of migrating ille-

gally from Bangladesh.

Rohingya were stripped of their citizenship in 1982, denying them almost all rights and rendering them stateless.

The 10 bodies were found in December in a mass grave near a cemetery in Inn Din village.

"It is true that both the villagers and security forces admitted they killed the 10 Bengali terrorists," the military statement said. "The army will take charge of those who are responsible for the killings and who broke the rules of engagement. This incident happened because ethnic Buddhist villagers were threatened and provoked by the terrorists."



An ethnic Rohingya holds a banner during protest after Friday prayers outside the Myanmar Embassy last December in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. AP

ASIAN BRIEFS

Pakistan reporter says he escaped kidnapping attempt

ISLAMABAD (AP)—When armed men tried to kidnap and threatened to kill him, Pakistani journalist Taha Siddiqui feared he would become another statistic in a growing list of activists and bloggers who have disappeared in Pakistan after criticizing the country's powerful military or advocating peace with hostile neighbor India. Siddiqui, the Pakistan bureau chief for the New Delhi-based online news agency World is One News, said he suspected the attack Wednesday was payback for his critical reporting on Pakistan's powerful military and intelligence agencies. Siddiqui was heading to the airport to catch a flight to London when his taxi was stopped. He was ordered out of the vehicle, beaten and threatened. He escaped, fleeing into oncoming traffic and flagging down a passing car. Behind him he said he heard the gunmen shout: "Shoot him! Shoot him!" "They wanted to make me a missing person," Siddiqui said in a telephone interview from a local police station where he went after the attack to file a complaint and demand police protection. "This has been coming. It's all about what I write."

Pakistan mob angered by rape, murder of girl attacks police

LAHORE, Pakistan (AP)—A mob angered over the recent rape and murder of an 8-year-old girl attacked a police station and a nearby government building in eastern Punjab province on Wednesday, triggering clashes that left at least two people dead and several injured,

the police said. The violence erupted in the city of Kasur hours before the funeral of Zainab Ansari, whose case has drawn wide public outrage. The girl went missing last week while going to a nearby home for Quranic studies. Her parents, who were away at a pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia at the time, returned on Wednesday, landing at the Islamabad airport. "We will not bury our daughter until her killers are arrested," said the father, Ameen Ansari, as his wife sobbed. Zainab's body was found on Tuesday in a garbage bin, senior police officer Imran Nawaz Khan said. Police say she was abducted, raped and murdered. Officer Maqsood Ahmed said six girls were sexually assaulted in recent months in Kasur and that police were probing whether there was a connection in the cases. Activists on social media have condemned the government for failing to arrest those involved in the crime.

India airline fires 2 pilots after reported fight in cockpit

NEW DELHI (AP)—An Indian airline says it has fired two pilots who reportedly fought in the cockpit, with the man allegedly slapping the woman during the New Year's Day flight from London to Mumbai. Jet Airways says in a statement Tuesday that it "has terminated services of both the cockpit crew with immediate effect." The company has released no further details. Indian media have reported the male pilot slapped his female co-pilot during an argument in the cockpit, and that she emerged crying and for a time refused to return to the cockpit. The flight, which was carrying 324 passengers and 14 crew members, landed safely.

World

Russian gains in Syria threatened

MOSCOW (AP)—Just weeks after Russian President Vladimir Putin declared victory in Syria, Russian military outposts in the country have come under rebel attacks that are challenging Moscow's gains.

Russian bases located in Syrian President Bashar Assad's Alawite heartland had been immune to rebel raids ever since Moscow launched its campaign in Syria in September 2015. But a series of drone attacks and mortar and rocket shelling in recent days has broken the calm.

The incursions have raised doubts both about the sustainability of the Assad government's recent victories and Moscow's ability to protect its assets in the country.

A drone raid on Saturday was unusually massive, involving 13 of the aircraft equipped with satellite navigation and launched from a distance of up to 100 kilometers (60 miles) away, according to the Russian Defense Ministry. It said seven of the drones were shot down by air defense systems and the remaining six were forced to land.

While the ministry said the attack caused no damage to the Hemeimeem air base in

the province of Latakia and the naval outpost in the Syrian port of Tartus, it marked the first time the militants used drones against Russian assets on such a large scale.

No one has claimed responsibility for the attacks.

Without directly blaming any specific country, the Russian military said the necessary data and capability for the attacks could only have been obtained "from one of the countries that possesses know-how in satellite navigation"—a statement that appeared to be directed at the United States.

It also noted a "strange coincidence" of a U.S. military intelligence plane flying over the Mediterranean near the two Russian bases at the moment of the attack.

Russian lawmakers skipped decorum, bluntly accusing the U.S. of sponsoring the drone attack. "That action wouldn't have been possible without involvement of American structures," said Gennady Zyuganov, head of the Communist Party and a member of the lower house.

Dmitry Sablin, a lawmaker who coordinates parliamentary links with Syria, told the Interfax news agency the attack was even bigger than the

Hundreds arrested as violent protests spread across Tunisia

TUNIS, Tunisia (AP)—Tunisian authorities said Wednesday that 237 people were arrested and dozens of others injured across the country in recent days as violent protests against government-imposed price hikes spread to more cities and regions.

The Interior Ministry said that those arrested took part in looting, thefts and arson. Some blocked roads with blazing tires and targeted police stations, municipal depots, stores and banks.

"These acts were carried out at night and have nothing to do with the ongoing protests," the ministry's spokesman, Khalifa Chibani, told Tunisian news agency TAP.

He said 58 members of the security forces were injured and 57 police vehicles damaged, but didn't say how many protesters were hurt. One protester died Monday night.

The latest unrest recalled the protest movement that led to the ouster of authoritarian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali seven years ago. The 2010-2011 Tunisian revolt sparked uprisings across the Arab world, called the Arab Spring.

Tunisia's economy has

Russian military acknowledged, involving 31 drones.

The Pentagon strongly denied any involvement.

"Any suggestion that U.S. or coalition forces played a role in an attack on a Russian base is without any basis in fact and is utterly irresponsible," said Marine Maj. Adrian Rankine-Galloway, a Pentagon spokesman.

The Russian and the U.S. militaries have maintained regular contacts to avoid conflict between their forces in Syria. In recent months, however, the Russian military brass has become increasingly critical of the U.S. role in Syria, accusing it of protecting militants who can carry out future battles against Assad—a claim the U.S. has angrily denied.

The drone attack on the Russian assets in Syria also raised tensions between Russia and Turkey. Moscow and Ankara have backed opposite sides in the conflict, but they struck a deal last year to set up de-escalation zones, which also involved Iran, another Assad backer. The agreement has helped reduce fighting significantly and contributed to warmer ties between Russia and Turkey.

struggled ever since. The current protests are being driven by economic considerations related to a new budget law.

The Tunisian government is raising fuel prices and taxes on many products and services to reduce the country's annual deficit. Deficit reduction is among conditions set by the International Monetary Fund, which is providing \$2.9 billion in loans.

Trying to calm down protesters' anger, Prime Minister Youssef Chahed made a surprise visit to Tebourba, a town about 30 kilometers (20 miles) from the capital of Tunis, where a 45-year-old protester, Khomsi Yefrni, died in unclear circumstances on Monday night.

Chahed went to the town's police station that was set ablaze during protests earlier this week. He was greeted by an angry mob who demanded the dismissal of the local chief official.

After the death of the protester, unrest spread to more regions in the country. Violent protests were now affecting at least two dozen towns including suburbs of the capital, Tunis. The army had to send re-

inforcements in many cities to protect public buildings, banks and stores.

On the outskirts of Tunis, clashes and arsons broke out in the towns of Attadhamoun, Intilaka, Zahrouni and Zayatine, which were covered under clouds of smoke, private radio Mosaique FM reported. Young protesters with faces covered with scarves tried to break into shops, but were pushed back by police.

In Ben Arous, another Tunis' suburb, a video posted on the internet showed looters leaving a supermarket with large amount of goods in their hands.

In the southern town of Kebili, soldiers had to shoot rubber bullets in the air to prevent people from looting a supermarket, according to private radio Shems.

The tensions took a political twist Wednesday when the leader of the Popular Front, a coalition of left-wing parties, Jilani Hammami, called for an early election in the country because, he told radio Mosaique, "Tunisia is experiencing an exceptional crisis that needs an exceptional solution in the absence of horizons."

Off The Wall

Whale protects diver from shark

BRUNSWICK, Maine (AP)—A marine biologist believes a humpback whale shielded her from a 15-foot tiger shark in the South Pacific.

Nan Hauser said she didn't understand the actions of the 25-ton whale that she met face-to-face in the Cook Islands. Then she saw the shark.

She's heard on a video telling the massive mammal, "I love you!"

The encounter took place in October, but Hauser didn't upload the video until Monday. It

quickly spread via social media.

Hauser, president of the Center for Cetacean Research and Conservation, tells the Portland Press Herald that whales are "altruistic" and often hide seals from predators, but she has never experienced or read about anything about a whale protecting a human. "If someone told me the story, I wouldn't believe it," she said.

The Brunswick resident said she was oblivious to the shark during the tense, 10-minute encounter. The whale started

to nudge her, and appeared to push her with its head. The animal also appeared to shield her with its pectoral fin.

Her research companions turned off an underwater video drone, fearing she was going to be mauled to death.

But Hauser kept her video rolling.

She suffered some bruises and scratches from the encounter, but was otherwise unscathed. She said that after she swam back to her boat, the whale surfaced nearby as if to check on her.

armed robbery. It's unclear if they have lawyers.

Principal parodies Mariah Carey to announce school's out

FLORENCE, Ky. (AP)—Sometimes a snow day calls for a song. That's what a Kentucky principal did, posting a musical message for parents to let them know classes were canceled due to icy roads. Union Pointe Academy Principal Chad Caddell posted the video Monday on the school's Facebook page, singing "that school is canceled for today" to the tune of Mariah Carey's "Hero." Dressed in a long coat and fur trapper hat, he begins the parody by saying he's got something on his heart he has to share. Caddell also posted the video to Twitter saying "this is how we do school closings in Kentucky." He told The Associated Press that he created the video with his wife as a way to bring some joy and

fun to a snow day.

Swiss police arrest 80-year-old man for masked bank robbery

BERLIN (AP)—Swiss authorities say they have apprehended an 80-year-old man on allegations he robbed a bank near the city of Lucerne. Lucerne canton (state) prosecutors said Tuesday the man, who was arrested the previous day in the Lucerne area, had confessed to the December masked robbery of the bank in Meggen. The suspect's name wasn't released in line with privacy laws and further details weren't immediately available. At the time of the robbery, police released a photo of the suspect showing him wearing a black mask, clutching a blue plastic bag of money as he robbed the bank before he fled on foot. They said it wasn't clear if he was armed, and did not say how much money he got away with.

Science & Technology

How music streaming may slow internet use

By STEVE ALEXANDER
Star Tribune (Minneapolis)



Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; email: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.

are running and your Wi-Fi network is also handling downloads for a computer or smartphone.

To find out how much internet capacity you have available, take a laptop computer to each room of your house and run the internet speed test at tinyurl.com/p7zgr.

Do this while running the two Amazon music streams, then with those streams turned off.

Q: I have a 1980s Nintendo Entertainment System (NES) game console that uses a light-sensing "Zapper" gun for shooting games. The game unit still works, but the Zapper doesn't seem to work with a modern LCD TV. Does the Zapper require an old "tube" TV to function?

A: Yes, you need a CRT (cathode ray tube) TV rather than today's LCD (liquid crystal display) models.

The Zapper was a key element in the Nintendo

"Duck Hunt" game that was included with the NES console when it was introduced in 1985. When the Zapper was fired at a CRT, the screen reacted faster than the eye could see.

First it turned completely black, then the parts of the screen displaying ducks flashed white. If the light sensor in the Zapper saw white, you were given credit for a hit. If it saw black, you weren't.

But this technology depended on exact timing. The Zapper's light sensor allowed for the "lag time" — the time between when the trigger was pulled and the CRT screen reacted. When LCD TVs were introduced, they had different lag times than CRT TVs. As a result, the original Zapper pistol no longer worked. ("Duck Hunt" was modified for the Nintendo Wii video game console in 2014, but the new version didn't use the original Zapper pistol.)

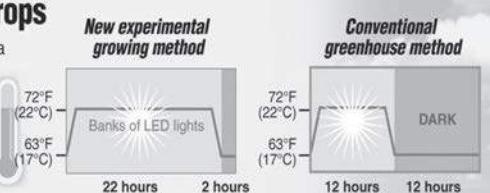
Science Matters

'Speed breeding' boosted plants

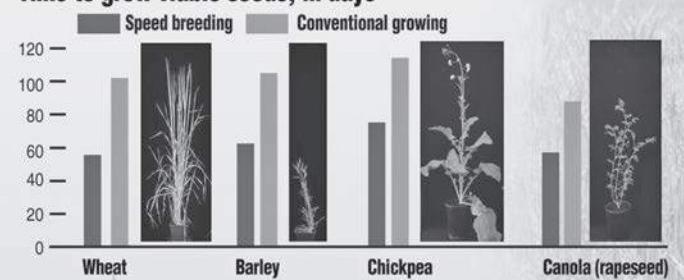
The world needs faster-maturing food crops for two reasons — to produce more food and to give researchers a more efficient way of studying grain genetics and growing methods.

Fast-growing crops

Researchers have found a pattern of light and temperature that makes grain plants grow faster; it would allow more plantings in one growing season



Time to grow viable seeds, in days



Two failed ways of speeding crops

During its disastrous Great Leap Forward (1958-62), China's government drove the country toward famine by ordering two measures, hoping to increase crops:

Close cropping was sowing seeds close together — closer than farmers knew the plants could tolerate

Deep plowing was loosening and fertilizing the soil much deeper than usual — as much as 2 meters (6 feet) deep

The methods were based on the pseudoscientific theories of Soviet agriculture biologist Trofim Lysenko



ICE VS RATS

In this Sept. 9, 2017 photo, a rat looks for food in a trash can on the corner of Otis Pl NW and Georgia Ave NW in the Park View neighborhood in Washington, D.C. The District of Columbia will be using dry ice as its newest weapon in its never-ending war on rats. The District of Columbia's rodent control division's program manager, Gerard Brown, tells The Washington Post the frozen form of carbon dioxide complements the poison the city uses, as reported rat complaints reach a four-year high.

SALWAN GEORGES/THE WASHINGTON POST



Chinese Party Chairman Mao Zedong

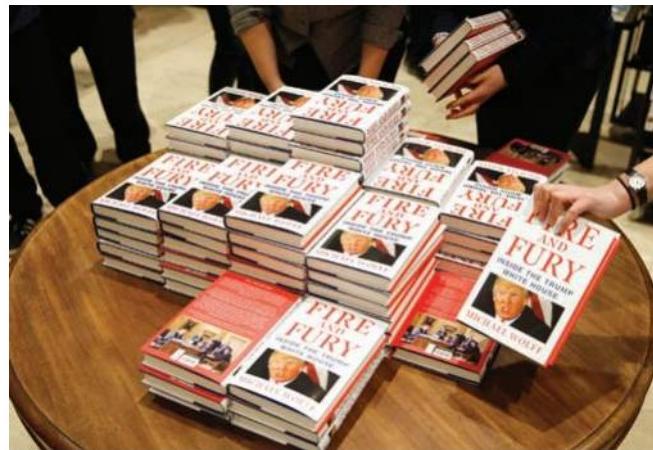
Source: John Innes Centre (UK); Universities of Queensland and of Sydney, US Agriculture Department; "Mao's Great Famine," by Frank Dikötter; TNS Photos Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service

Life & Style

'Fire and Fury' sales top 29,000 in first weekend

NEW YORK (AP) — Michael Wolff's "Fire and Fury" was the top-selling book last week, NPD BookScan told The Associated Press. And its numbers are likely to grow far higher.

"Fire and Fury" sold 29,000 copies, BookScan announced Wednesday. But Wolff's explosive tell-all about the Trump administration only came out last Friday and



In this Tuesday, Jan. 9, 2018, file photo, copies of Michael Wolff's "Fire and Fury: Inside the Trump White House" on display as they go on sale at a bookshop, in London. AP

N Korea: Book's popularity foretells Trump's end

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea has found good material to attack President Donald Trump: Michael Wolff's bombshell new book, "Fire and Fury."

The North's main Rodong Sinmun newspaper said Thursday the book's sales reflect what it calls "rapidly

surging anti-Trump sentiments in the international community."

It says the book's popularity "foretells Trump's political demise."

Last summer, Trump threatened to unleash "fire and fury like the world has never seen," triggering a furious response from the North.

Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un have since traded bombastic threats of war and crude insults against each other.

Trump called Kim a "Rocket Man" on a "suicide mission." Kim called the American president "the mentally deranged U.S. dotard."

BookScan's weekly sales run through Saturday.

"The first couple of days of sales figures aren't giving us the full picture," said Kristen McLean, the NPD Group's book industry analyst. "Because of potential distribution issues related to the early release coupled with high demand, it may take a few weeks to see exactly where this book will land in comparison to other political best-sellers of the last few years."

McLean noted that Hillary Clinton's "What Happened," which came out last September, averaged sales of more than 30,000 hardcover copies per day in its opening week. But that book "was hugely anticipated and very well stocked," she said.

"Fire and Fury" seemed to catch everyone off guard, from the Trump administration to publisher Henry Holt and Co., which has raised an initial announced printing of 150,000 to more than 1 million. Since reports of the book's contents emerged a week ago, retailers have struggled to keep up, with Amazon.com warning of delays of two to four weeks for delivery. BookScan, which tracks about 85 percent of the retail market, only counts an order as a sale once the book has been shipped.

The BookScan numbers also don't include e-books. According to John Sargent,

CEO of Holt parent company Macmillan, digital sales already top 250,000 copies, an extraordinary number for a nonfiction release and likely boosted by the scarcity of the hardcover edition. Audio sales exceed 100,000.

Clinton's book, about her stunning presidential election loss in 2016 to Trump, had one of the biggest first weeks in recent history for a nonfiction book. It sold more than 300,000 copies in the combined formats of hardcover, e-book and audio, Simon & Schuster announced at the time. The debut for "Fire and Fury," with its stories of a chaotic White House, is approaching 400,000. "Fire and Fury" will appear at No. 1 on The New York Times' hardcover nonfiction list in the edition that runs on Jan. 21.

"Fire and Fury" was supposed to come out Tuesday but Holt moved up the release in respond to popular demand and to threats of legal action by Trump, who has denounced the book as fiction. An attorney for the president last week sent a cease-and-desist letter to Holt, asking for publication to be withheld. Sargent has issued a company memo defending the decision to publish "Fire and Fury" and a Macmillan attorney on Tuesday said the publisher planned no retraction or apology.

In Celebration of His New Life "Asayoóng"

†EDRICO JOSEPH I. LISUA

Better known as "Chico"
Born: March 3, 1992 Death: January 6, 2018



In his new life, he will be met at the gates of heaven by his:

Parents: †Crispin Joseph R. Lisua
†Erna Dionicia I. Lisua
Sister: †Gregoria I. Lisua

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:
Brothers, Sisters, In-Laws and their children:

Bettylou L. Kosam/ Jordan I. Kosam & children
Luwimal Micario I. Lisua/ Rosemary E. Lisua & children
Veronica Marie I. Lisua/ Avery Jay C. Laniyo & children
Bertha U. Aldan & children

He will be remembered by numerous uncles, aunts, cousins, nephews, nieces, godchildren & friends.

Daily mass will be held in Kristo Rai Church at 6:00 a.m. and Holy Rosary at 7:00 p.m. from January 6-13, 2018. On Sunday, January 14, 2018, his remains will be transported from CHCC morgue at 3:00 p.m. to As Falipe where last respect and viewing will be held.

On Monday, January 15, 2018, his remains will be escorted to Kristo Rai Church at 9:00 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m., followed by Interment Services at Mt. Carmel Cemetery where he will be at peaceful rest.

The presence and prayers of all family and friends are greatly appreciated.

From: The Family

In Loving Remembrance of



†Luisa Babauta Kisa
25TH YEAR DEATH ANNIVERSARY
(JANUARY 15, 1993)



†Enrique Ninaisen Kisa
28TH YEAR DEATH ANNIVERSARY
(MARCH 11, 1990)

We, the family of †Luisa Babauta Kisa and †Enrique Ninaisen Kisa cordially invite our relatives and friends to join us in commemorating the 25th and 28th Death Anniversaries of our departed loved ones.

Daily Mass is offered at Santa Soledad Parish (Kagman) as follows:

**January 7, 2018: 8:30 a.m.
January 8-13, 2018: 6:00 p.m.
January 14, 2018: 8:30 a.m.
January 15, 2018: 6:00 p.m.**

On the final day, January 15th, Mass will be followed by dinner at the Santa Soledad Social Hall and courtyard.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase!
FROM THE FAMILY

Michael Douglas pre-emptively denies sexual misconduct

NEW YORK (AP)—Michael Douglas has come forward to vigorously deny an allegation of sexual misconduct from three decades ago—before the publication of the claim.

The two-time Oscar winner told Deadline that he anticipated an upcoming report would contain an allegation by a former employee that he acted inappropriately in front of her about 32 years ago.

Douglas decided



to try “to get ahead of” the story by speaking to Deadline, calling it a “complete lie, fabrication.” He says his wife, Catherine Zeta-Jones, “has been very supportive.”

Douglas says he remembers the former employee who is allegedly making the accusation and calls her “sophisticated intelligent” with a “good sense of humor.” He says he’s had no contact with her in more than 30 years.

James Franco denies sexual misconduct allegations

NEW YORK (AP)—After allegations of sexual misconduct circulated on social media about James Franco, the actor told late-night host Stephen Colbert that the “the things I heard on Twitter are not accurate.”

The allegations against Franco were prompted in part by Franco’s best actor in a comedy or musical win Sunday at the Golden Globes for his film “The Disaster Artist.” At the ceremony, Franco wore a pin supporting the “Time’s Up” initiative for gender equality in Hollywood.

Actress Violet Paley said on Twitter that Franco pushed her head toward his groin in a car, and filmmaker Sarah Tither-Kaplan claimed a \$100-a-day contract she signed to perform nudity in a film of Franco’s was exploitative. Actress Ally Sheedy also said in a since-deleted tweet that Franco was an example of why she left the movie business.

“I pride myself on taking responsibility for things that I have done,” Franco told Colbert. “The things that I heard that were on Twitter are not accurate, but I completely support people coming out and being able to have a voice because they didn’t have a voice for so long, so I don’t want to shut them down in any way. I



In this Jan. 7, 2018, file photo, Dave Franco, left, poses with James Franco, winner of the award for best performance by an actor in a motion picture - musical or comedy for “The Disaster Artist,” at the InStyle and Warner Bros. Golden Globes afterparty in Beverly Hills, Calif.

think that it’s a good thing and I support it.”

Franco’s appearance Tuesday on CBS’ “The Late Show With Stephen Colbert” came hours after The New York Times canceled a public event scheduled Wednesday that was intended to feature “The Disaster Artist” director and star and

his brother and co-star, Dave Franco, discussing the movie with a Times reporter.

The Times said in a statement that it had canceled the event “given the controversy surrounding recent allegations.”

The scrutiny comes at a delicate moment for Franco,

a contender for a best-actor Academy Awards nomination. Voting for the Oscar nominations ends Friday.

Franco said he had “no idea” why Sheedy, whom he directed in a 2014 off-Broadway play, was upset. “I had nothing but a great time with her,” he said. But in reference to other behavior, he said, “If there’s restitution to be made, I will make it.”

“I’m here to listen and learn and change my perspective where it’s off, and I’m completely willing and want to,” he said.

In 2014, Instagram messages showed Franco apparently trying to hit on a 17-year-old Scottish fan. Afterward Franco said he was “embarrassed” and said social media is “tricky.” “I used bad judgment and I learned my lesson,” the actor said then.

Franco also attended the National Board of Review Awards gala in New York City on Tuesday to present his film’s adapted screenplay award. He didn’t comment on the allegations at the ceremony. An email seeking comment from his publicist wasn’t immediately returned.

Franco is scheduled to appear on NBC’s “Late Night With Seth Meyers” on Wednesday.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Washington Post suspends reporter for inappropriate conduct

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Washington Post says it has suspended reporter Joel Achenbach for “inappropriate workplace conduct” involving women at the newspaper. The Post says Achenbach will be suspended for 90 days without pay.

Achenbach has released a statement saying, “I’ve said and done things that were unprofessional, and I apologize to the women affected by this and acknowledge their courage in speaking out.” The newspaper’s managers are declining to offer details of the accusations against Achenbach or their investigation into his conduct. The Post says Achenbach has written for the newspaper since 1990.

Willie Nelson cancels shows after leaving a concert early

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Country music legend Willie Nelson has canceled shows in Nevada and California after leaving a concert in San Diego after performing one song. A publicist for Nelson says shows scheduled this week in Rohnert Park, California; Las Vegas; and Laughlin, Nevada, have been canceled. The San Diego Union-Tribune reported that Nelson left his show at a San Diego casino on Saturday after the first song, “Whiskey River.” Fans told the newspaper that

Nelson was coughing and apparently had difficulty breathing. A statement from Ticketmaster said he left the stage early because of an illness. Nelson, 84, keeps up a rigorous touring and recording schedule. His latest album, “Willie Nelson and the Boys: Willies Stash Vol. 2” featuring his sons Lukas and Micah was released last year.

Paul Haggis resigns as chair of Haiti charity he founded

LOS ANGELES (AP)—“Crash” writer and director Paul Haggis has resigned as chair of the board of the charity he founded, Artists for Peace and Justice. The organization says Wednesday that Haggis’ resignation was accepted on Jan. 4, one day before The Associated Press published accounts from three women alleging sexual misconduct by the Oscar-winning filmmaker. The women were inspired to come forward following a civil lawsuit in December accusing Haggis of raping publicist Haleigh Breest in 2013. Haggis has vehemently denied all allegations and is scheduled for a deposition with Breest’s lawyers on Jan. 29. In a statement, Artists for Peace and Justice thanked Haggis for his service. He founded the Haiti-focused charity in 2009. The organization says Susan Sarandon and Ben Stiller have been appointed as the board’s new co-chairs. An email sent to a publicist for Haggis was not immediately returned.

Single mom puts real effort into socializing with couples

DEAR ABBY: I have an answer for a question from “Excluded in the East” you printed on Sept. 24: “Why do married couples exclude single people?”

As a single mother with three children for 15 years, I made the conscious decision to conduct myself as I always had when I was part of a couple. I hosted backyard parties and holiday dinners and invited my married friends. I initiated invitations for dinner and a movie.

At restaurants, I made sure to pick up my own tab. If a couple insisted on paying for my meal, I insisted on paying the tip and was prepared with cash. Why? Because I was mindful that some men felt uncomfortable about taking money from a single woman.

If I wanted company for the evening, I drove to their house. Sometimes I volunteered to be the designated safe driver. Most important, I never complained about my ex or vented about the difficulties of coping as a single mom.

Needless to say, there was no flirting or inappropriate comments. I also avoided lengthy side conversations with one spouse. In short, I worked hard to make sure my married friends enjoyed my company as much as I enjoyed theirs, and it worked!

LAURA IN NEW YORK

DEAR LAURA: I’m glad it worked for you. After I asked for readers’ input on the topic, I received many interesting responses. Read on for a sample:

DEAR ABBY: I suspect that married couples are afraid

divorce is contagious. It could have something to do with the fact that some married people are no longer happily married and they fear if they include a divorcee, it might trigger a divorce.

HAPPILY UNCOUPLED IN OHIO

DEAR ABBY: I have been married for 10 years. A lot of couples exclude singles because they don’t want them to feel like third wheels. I remember when I was single feeling that way in some groups, and it was depressing. Marrieds also have a different mindset than singles, which can lead to awkwardness. It can work, but it has to be the right group.

MARRIED IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR ABBY: We’re a gay male married couple. We have many friends—singles and couples, gay and straight—with whom we socialize, usually at restaurants. We often dine with single friends one at a time, because splitting the tab is simply a matter of two credit cards. If we’re with another couple, that’s two credit cards. Three couples, it’s three cards, etc. But with five or seven people at the table, paying for the meal turns into an exercise in high finance.

KEEPING IT SIMPLE IN PALM SPRINGS

DEAR ABBY: I’m in my early 60s and still single. I actually PREFER to be left out of invitations to eat in restaurants, go on trips, etc. with my many coupled friends. It makes me some-

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

what depressed to be with those who have found their mates. “Excluded’s” friends may be sensitive about this, too. I’m very comfortable at home with my menagerie, and I often invite people over—married couples included.

DOG LADY IN BIRMINGHAM, ALA.

DEAR ABBY: Couples who tend to exclude their single friends, for whatever reason, need to remember that one day they, too, may be single and overlooked. My dear mom was left out a lot after her divorce, and I remember how sad it made her feel.

ANDREA IN DENVER

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order “How to Be Popular.” Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

CLASSIFIED ADS



WHATZIT Solution: Never give a sucker an even break

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as \$30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	COMBO (PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$15	\$30
• 5-Liner	\$24	\$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



Find today's solution in classified section

APARTMENT FOR RENT

Asia Garden, Chalan Laulau

Two bedrooms apartment, fully furnished, newly renovated, \$650/month, except utilities.

Wind's Garden, Chinatown

One bedroom apartment, fully furnished, \$375/month, not including utilities.

Please contact 783-0575 or 285-8738
Email to kyxzhang1@hotmail.com

new wave dental

- Immediate Job Openings!
- Dental Assistant (1) - \$10/hr.
- Front Desk/Dental Insurance Claims (1) - \$10/hr.
- US Citizens/Green Card Required.
- Dental Experience Required!
- Email resume to: mikehalddis@hotmail.com
- NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE.
- APPLY NOW!!!!

share the power of a wish.

MAKE-A-WISH®

Visit us at: Make-A-Wish Guam
590 South Marine Corps Drive, ITC Bldg, Suite 109
Tumon, GU 96913-0350
Tel: (670) 483-9474 • Email: info@guam.wish.org
www.guam.wish.org

Saipan Tribune



(1) Driver, (1) Inventory Clerk, (2) Sales Representative, (6) Fisherman, (1) Sales Supervisor. Minimum salary. Send resume to SMJ Corporation. P.O. Box 503944 Saipan, MP 96950.

3-Cook, 2-Beautician, 1-Dressmaker, 1-Commercial Cleaner, 2-Maintenance with at least 2 year experience. Interested applicants call Susan S. Castro at 287-5961.

CLICK IT OR TICKET DAY & NIGHT

ACHUGAO SERVICES, LLC

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT (01) RECEPTIONIST INTERN (Full-time)

Job Purpose:

Serves visitors by greeting, welcoming, and directing them appropriately; assists company personnel of visitor arrival; maintains security and telecommunications system.

Duties:

- Welcomes visitors by greeting them, in person or on the telephone; answering or referring inquiries.
- Directs visitors by maintaining employee and department directories; giving instructions.
- Maintains security by following procedures and monitoring logbook.
- Maintains telecommunication system by following manufacturer's instructions for house phone and console operation.
- Maintains safe and clean reception area by complying with procedures, rules, and regulations.
- Maintains continuity among work teams by documenting and communicating actions, irregularities, and continuing needs.
- Performs clerical duties.
- Sorts mail.
- Types memos and envelopes.
- Prepare documents and packages for mail or shipping.
- Scan, rename, and file documents on server.
- Contributes to team effort by accomplishing related results as needed.

Skills/Qualifications:

- Telephone Skills, Verbal Communication, Microsoft Office Skills, Listening, Professionalism, Customer Focus, Organization, Informing Others, Handles Pressure, Phone Skills, Supply Management
- Employer Preference: Must have own transportation to and from the workplace. US Citizen or green card holder preferred. Looking to hire immediately.

Interested applicants must submit resume to our Bridge Capital office on Micro Beach Rd, Garapan or email resume to HR Manager, Tania Mesa at tania.mesa@bccnmi.com. Deadline to submit application will be Thursday, January 25, 2018 at 4:00 pm. No phone calls please.



is inviting qualified, U.S. workers to apply for the following position:

(1) SALES MANAGER (CHINA MARKET)

Minimum of three (3) years of hotel industry experience, plus one (1) year of Chinese Market sales management experience. Must be proficient in speaking, reading and writing the English and Chinese languages, and be proficient with the use of Microsoft Office. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

Applications must be received by 5:00pm on Wednesday, January 17, 2018.

PIC applications are available at the PIC Security Desk by the Loading Dock/Employee Entrance. Incomplete applications will NOT be accepted or considered.

PIC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 07-2017

Opening date: January 3, 2018

Closing date: January 19, 2018

Positions: (5) ARFF Trainee (Saipan)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office West Tinian International Airport or Benjamin T. Manglona Rota International Airport. Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the West Tinian International Airport or Benjamin T. Manglona Rota International Airport is no later than 5:00 pm on January 19, 2018.

Detailed information on qualifications and position description for the above positions shall be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., except on holidays, at the CPA's Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin. Office at the West Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin T. Manglona Rota International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.tenorio@cpa.gov.mp or evelyn.sablan@cpa.gov.mp by phone at (670) 237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Gemkell Saipan Corp.

is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

Boutique Supervisor, Bottega Veneta (1)

High School Diploma or a GED with one (1) to two (2) years of related or applicable work and management experience in luxury retail environment. Must be able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Must be familiar with the POS System.

Inventory Planner (1)

High School Diploma or GED with at least six (6) months retail experience and at least three (3) months of prior receiving, stocking and inventory experience. Must be proficient in Microsoft Office applications (Excel, MS Word, Outlook, Power Point). Knowledge on the following equipment: POS terminal, photocopier/faximile machine, and other items as necessary to accomplish assigned tasks. Must be able to lift at least 15 pound items and carry it for at least 100 yards, with or without using a trolley, and move up to 50 pound items using a trolley. Must be able to drive Company provided vehicles. Must be able to bend, kneel, crouch, or crawl in awkward positions. Must be able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends.

Sales Associate, full-time (6) and part-time (2)

High School Diploma or a GED with prior work experience in luxury retail sales. Must be able to lift at least 15 pound items and carry it for at least 100 yards with or without using a trolley. Preferably fluent in both written and oral communication in the English and Chinese (Mandarin) languages. Familiarity with the POS System is preferred. Must be able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends.

Interested applicants may send their applications or resumes via email to gemkell_recruitment@tanholdings.com. To be considered, resumes / application documents must be submitted not later than 5:00PM on January 18, 2018. Applications for Employment are available at the Century Tours Office, Kanoa Resort. Background checks and pre-employment drug test will be required prior to employment.



Please call 235-NEWS

Subscribe to the CNMI's First Daily Newspaper.

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: RFP18-OGM-045**

SUBMISSION DATE: FEBRUARY 06, 2018 TIME: 10:00 A.M.
**"LANDFILL GAS EXTRACTION FEASIBILITY STUDY
FOR THE OFFICE OF GRANTS MANAGEMENT"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAIC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ EPHIPHANIO E. CABRERA, JR.
ADMINISTRATOR, OFFICE OF GRANTS /S/ HERMAN S. SABLAM
DIRECTOR, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB18-OGM-046**

SUBMISSION DATE: FEBRUARY 05, 2018 TIME: 9:30 A.M.
**"PURCHASE OF ONE (1) CLASS "I" FULL SIZE SUV, FOUR
DOOR VEHICLE FOR THE OFFICE OF GRANTS MANAGEMENT"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAIC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ EPHIPHANIO E. CABRERA, JR.
ADMINISTRATOR, OFFICE OF GRANTS /S/ HERMAN S. SABLAM
DIRECTOR, P&S

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Tel.: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 • Fax: (670) 235-7147
Website: www.developcnmi.com

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

POSITION VACANCY: Loan Officer I, Classified Position
LOCATION: Saipan Office
ANNUAL SALARY: \$23,394.03
CLOSING DATE: Friday, January 26, 2018

NATURE OF WORK

This position requires a person who is detailed and has an eye for compliance requirements. It involves multiple and moderately complex duties in providing senior staffer in the loan department in a variety of responsibilities involving packaging and processing loan notes and or documentations. The position is also responsible for cash handling.

GENERAL DUTIES:

- Preparation of notes/loan documentations and processes
 - Prepares loan agreements, new or revised and other legal documents
 - Processes recording of mortgages and other legal instruments at Commonwealth Recorder
 - Prepares loan disbursements
 - Administers loan processing procedure based on CDA's policy
- Deposits and purchase requirement under SSBCI program
 - Review all payable invoices, data entry, check routing and distribution
- Loan Administrative
 - Compiles data for entry and various loan reports
 - Maintains internal loan status tracking system
 - Tracks UCC filings, inventory of real estate collaterals
- Cash Handling
 - Receives payments
 - Processes pre-authorized credit card payments
 - Inputs payment details and issues receipts

QUALIFICATION and OTHER REQUIREMENTS / SKILLS

Any combination equivalent to graduation from an accredited college or university with a BA Degree; plus one (1) year of appropriate work experience. Copy of diploma or official transcript and police clearance must be attached to the application.

Detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up, together with an employment application form, during regular working hours at the CDA Office in Oleai, Saipan.

Applicants are requested to submit their application and supporting documents to the Office of Personnel Management.

For inquiries, please contact Ms. Christy Kintol, Office Manager at (670) 234-6245 extension 310 or by e-mail at c.kintol@developcnmi.com.

Drive growth. Be the difference.



Caronel Watch Center Saipan

is seeking motivated and experienced candidates for the positions of:

Store Manager

- Previous retail managerial experience preferably in luxury goods retailing
- Proven leadership skills and excellent communications
- Foreign language skills a plus

Store Supervisor

- Previous retail supervising experience
- Excellent communications
- Foreign language skills a plus

Full / Part-Time Sales Associates

- Previous retail experience
- Foreign language skills a plus

EEO. Apply in person at Caronel Watch Center Saipan
1st Floor, Kase II Building, Beach Road, Garapan
or e-mail resume to elsie.tanayan@dksh.com

Think Asia. Think DKSH.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Judiciary Administrative Office
Guma' Hustisia · Iimwal Aweewe · House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165 · Saipan MP 96950
T: (670) 236-9715 · F: (670) 236-9702



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:

COMPLIANCE SPECIALIST

Announcement # JVA17-13

DUTIES: The successful candidate will monitor and supervise participants for the CNMI Drug Court. The compliance specialist will work directly with men and women who have substance abuse addictions and will report to Drug Court Manager and Court regarding participant compliance in the program. The duties of this position include, but are not limited to the following:

- Provides assistance to the Drug Court Manager in monitoring participants;
- Performs all assigned duties relating to cases scheduled for court appearance in drug court hearing;
- Gathers and evaluates data pertinent to individual drug court cases from resource areas including, as necessary, participants' home, school, church, social agencies, neighborhood contacts, etc;
- Contacts public and private community resources to secure services for participants. Maintains a continuing and ongoing relationships with the agencies as necessary;
- Coordinates enforcement of drug court orders including curfews and home detention with CNMI Drug Court Probation Officer and Law Enforcement Officers;
- Maintains contact with local law enforcement agencies, Drug Court Judge, Office of the Public Defender, Office of the Attorney General, employers, local social service agencies, schools and others;
- Coordinates investigations in preparation of court-ordered reports staffing and hearings;
- Maintains case records and statistical data for evaluation purposes and for submission to the Drug Court Manager;
- Attends and participates in Drug Court staffings and hearings;
- Attends public relations activities such as community group meetings, conferences, panel discussions, and other related forums;
- Follows Court policy for monitoring payments ordered by the Court. The payments to be monitored include, but are not limited to, restitution, fine, child supports, etc.;
- Works closely with Drug Court Caseworkers to support case management, coordination of services and monitoring;
- Conducts gender-specific observed drug testing in accordance with CNMI Drug Court protocols; and
- Performs other duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS: Candidate must have a high school diploma or equivalent and have obtained an associate's degree from a recognized college or university in criminal or behavioral science or related field. Have four (4) years experience in the law enforcement or other related experience.

Applicant must have a professional demeanor and be able to exercise good judgment in stressful situations. The ability to maintain client confidentiality at all times is imperative. Report writing skills and case management experience would be preferred. Applicants with criminal records will not be considered. Criminal record check will be conducted. Drug test designated position.

Have a valid driver's license and be proficient with Microsoft Word and Excel; must be knowledgeable about the use of data systems.

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This position is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Presiding Judge. The salary range will be \$25,000 - \$28,000 annually.

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Clippers beat Warriors to spoil Durant milestone



OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Lou Williams scored 27 of his career-high 50 points in the third quarter and the Los Angeles Clippers beat the Golden

State Warriors for the first time in more than three years with a 125-106 win Wednesday that spoiled a milestone night for Kevin Durant.

Williams shot 16 for 27 with a career-best eight 3-pointers and made all 10 of his free throws.

Durant became the 44th player in NBA history to score 20,000 career points, finishing with 40 as the Warriors had their five-game winning streak snapped along with a 12-game unbeaten stretch in the Clippers rivalry.

Durant reached the milestone on a pull-up jumper from the left wing at the 1:41 mark of the second quarter. The Warriors announced his accomplishment on the main scoreboard and Durant received a standing ovation, shaking his head in acknowledgment while still very much in game mode.

By late in the fourth quarter, that crowd was making its way for the exits with the game out of reach.

The NBA Finals MVP returned from a three-game absence due to a strained right calf and scored 25 points in the first half against the Clippers—KD's biggest half of the season and the exact number he needed for 20,000.

Durant, who had a four-point play during the second quarter on the way to 14 points in the period, is at 29 the second-youngest player behind LeBron James and first to reach the 20,000 mark as a member of the Warriors.

He shot 14 for 18, including 6 of 7 from deep, and Zaza Pachulia added 12 points on a night when the Warriors were without their starting



Los Angeles Clippers' DeAndre Jordan, left, lays up a shot past Golden State Warriors' David West during the first half of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, Jan. 10, 2018, in Oakland, Calif. AP

backcourt. Stephen Curry re-sprained his right ankle during the morning shootaround, and Klay Thompson also was out for rest that had been previously scheduled.

Williams also dished out seven assists and rookie Tyronn Wallace added a season-best 22 points off the bench for the Clippers while returning to the Bay Area, where he starred in college at California.

Nick Young started in place of Thompson and had seven points but shot 3 for 11 and missed six of his seven 3-point tries. It was Young's first start with the Warriors. Shaun Livingston played in place of Curry and contributed eight points and four assists.

Bulls 122, Knicks 119

In New York, rookie Lauri Markkanen scored a season-high 33 points, Kris Dunn

shook off a nightmarish shooting night to make the tiebreaking basket in the second overtime, and the Chicago Bulls beat the New York Knicks 122-119 on Wednesday night.

Dunn had missed 14 of his first 17 shots before banking in a runner with just under a minute left in the second extra period, and Markkanen finished it off by making two free throws with 6.8 seconds remaining.

Robin Lopez and Denzel Valentine each scored 20 points for the Bulls in their third narrow victory over the Knicks this season.

Rockets 121, Trail Blazers 112

In Houston, Chris Paul scored a season-high 37 points, and Eric Gordon added 30 as the Houston Rockets withstood a late run to get a win over the Portland Trail Blazers.

The Blazers used a big run to cut a 14-point deficit to three with about three minutes left. Houston responded with a 6-2 run, capped by a 3-pointer from Paul, to make it 111-104 about a minute later. Damian Lillard made a layup on the other end, but Paul cut through three defenders to make an off-balance layup to push the lead to 113-106.

The Blazers couldn't get the ball in after a timeout, Houston got the ball back and Clint Capela added two free throws to secure the victory.

Heat 114, Pacers 106

In Indianapolis, Goran Dragic scored 20 points and Wayne Ellington made the decisive 3-pointer with 23.2 seconds left, helping Miami fend off Indiana's late push.

It's the sixth straight win for the Heat. Miami also ended

a 10-game road losing streak against the Pacers.

Victor Oladipo scored 26 points and Lance Stephenson provided a late boost of energy that nearly allowed Indiana to erase a 10-point deficit in the final 9:57.

Grizzlies 105, Pelicans 102

In Memphis, Tyreke Evans scored 28 points, including a pair of free throws with 5.9 seconds left that helped the Memphis Grizzlies beat the New Orleans Pelicans.

Marc Gasol finished with 21 points and 10 rebounds for Memphis while JaMychal Green contributed 20 points and 14 rebounds.

Jazz 107, Wizards 104

In Washington, Ricky Rubio scored 21 points, Donovan Mitchell had 16 and the short-handed Utah Jazz completed a season sweep over the Washington Wizards.

Ekpe Udoh scored 16 points and Joe Johnson had 16 off the bench for the Jazz, who had lost 13 of 16 in between meetings with Washington. The Wizards were embarrassed 116-69 in Utah on Dec. 4.

Utah played without two starters, and second-leading scorer Rodney Hood was ejected in the second half.

Timberwolves 104, Thunder 88

In Minneapolis, Jimmy Butler scored 26 points, grabbed seven rebounds and had eight assists for the Minnesota Timberwolves in a win against the Oklahoma City Thunder.

Andrew Wiggins added 19 points, and Karl-Anthony Towns had 18 points and 12 rebounds as Minnesota pulled away in the second half to win

its third game in a row at home and 10th in its last 13 overall.

Russell Westbrook had 38 points and 10 rebounds, but Paul George, Carmelo Anthony and the rest of the Thunder had a tough time shooting. Westbrook was 15 of 23 from the field.

Mavericks 115, Hornets 111

In Charlotte, Harrison Barnes had 25 points and 11 rebounds, Yogi Ferrell made seven 3-pointers and scored 22 points and the Dallas Mavericks fended off fatigue to beat a fresh Charlotte Hornets team.

Dirk Nowitzki added 19 points for the Mavericks, and Dennis Smith Jr. had 15.

The Mavericks were playing their third game in four days, while the Hornets were coming off a four-day layoff.

Bucks 110, Magic 103

In Milwaukee, Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 26 points, Khris Middleton added 22 and the Milwaukee Bucks turned up their defensive intensity after a porous first quarter to beat the Orlando Magic.

John Henson picked up his fifth double-double of the year with 14 points and 10 rebounds for the Bucks, who handed the Magic their sixth straight loss and 15th in their last 16.

Pistons 114, Nets 80

In Brooklyn, Andre Drummond scored 22 points and grabbed 20 rebounds, Tobias Harris had 22 points, and the Detroit Pistons blew past the Brooklyn Nets.

Dwight Buycks added 17 points for the Pistons.

Allen Crabbe scored 20 points and Rondae Hollis-Jefferson had 15 points for the Nets, who have lost three in a row.

Hawks 100, Nuggets 97

In Denver, Dennis Schroder had 19 points and 10 assists, Taurean Prince scored 16 and the Atlanta Hawks beat the Denver Nuggets 100-97 on Wednesday night, ending a 10-game road losing streak.

Kent Bazemore scored 14 points and Ersan Ilyasova had 10 points and nine rebounds for the Hawks, who never trailed after the first quarter.

Atlanta (11-30) has the worst record in the NBA and entered the night tied for the fewest road wins. The Hawks posted their fourth road victory this season

Vikings put faith in Forbath's leg, as Lutz satisfies Saints

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. (AP)

(AP)—Kai Forbath was planning to move into an apartment in New Orleans the week of the 2016 season opener, when a phone call from the Saints quickly turned his day upside down.

The players were off from practice, so Forbath had no doubt about why he'd been summoned to team headquarters five days before the first game.

Coach Sean Payton delivered the disappointing news that the Saints had decided to sign rookie Wil Lutz and release Forbath to make room.

"Coach Payton said he just had a gut feeling that he had to go with him," Forbath said, "so they gave him a shot."

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"Coach Payton said he just had a gut feeling that he had to go with him," Forbath said, "so they gave him a shot."

Saints punter Thomas Morstead, who has been the holder for both of them, recalled Lutz making every kick in his tryout the day before the move was made.

"He came in and just killed his workout," Morstead said, "and if Coach Payton gets a gut feeling on something, he'll trust himself over what anybody thinks."

Forbath had just returned from a weekend out of town to celebrate his birthday, after beating out Connor Barth for the job in training camp.

"It was kind of shocking, but you know it's not the first time something shocking's happened to me in this league," Forbath said. "It's a business, and everything hap-

pens for a reason."

Lutz, who spent the 2016 preseason with Baltimore after coming out of college at Georgia State, has performed well enough to match Payton's hunch.

He finished fifth in the NFL in points in 2016 and seventh in his second season. Lutz has missed his share, ranking 13th in the league this season in field goal accuracy (86.1 percent) and 19th as a rookie (82.4), but there he was last weekend knocking a 57-yard kick through the uprights late in the third quarter of the wild-card round playoff game.

"You've got to feel confident, and confidence comes from behavior demonstrated. Then you have to have that

routine, and although it seems to focus around one swing, I think it's that mentality that, man, you're going to go out there and friggin' put an arrow through them, you know?"

Payton said. "Sometimes that breaks guys, but in his case, it's definitely an asset."

That field goal helped the Saints hold off Carolina's late surge and hang on for a 31-26 victory that sent them to the divisional round to play at Minnesota on Sunday.

That's where the 30-year-old Forbath has been since the middle of last season, when the Vikings cut Blair Walsh and turned to him to stabilize this critical specialty role that can determine whether or not a team reaches the Super Bowl.

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Bruce agrees to 3-year, \$39M deal with Mets

 NEW YORK
(AP)—Jay Bruce and his proven bat are headed back to the New York Mets.

The free-agent outfielder is set to return to the Big Apple after agreeing to a three-year, \$39 million contract, according to two people familiar with the negotiations. The people spoke on condition of anonymity Wednesday night because the deal is pending a physical and no announcement had been made.

A three-time All-Star, Bruce hit a combined .254 with 36 home runs and 101 RBI for the Mets and Cleveland Indians last season. After falling out of playoff contention, New York traded him to the AL Central champions on Aug. 9 for minor league pitcher Ryder Ryan.

Bruce, who turns 31 on April 3, fills a hole in the outfield and brings back some much-needed power to a Mets team trying to rebound from an injury-ravaged 70-92 season. His return in right field would likely mean Michael Conforto is ticketed for center once he recovers from shoulder surgery.

With slugger Yoenis Cespedes coming off a hamstring injury in left, the Mets plan to have their top three outfielders from last year back intact. They have the potential to form a very productive trio for years to come—if healthy.

Bruce's presence provides some insurance in case Conforto isn't ready at the beginning of the season. Bruce also offers a possible option at first base if touted prospect Dominic Smith struggles again.

The Mets made it clear this winter they were seeking an outfielder who could play first



if needed, and Bruce started 10 games there last season for New York.

In a slow-developing market around the majors this offseason, Bruce's deal would be the third-largest given to a free

agent so far. First baseman Carlos Santana signed with Philadelphia for \$60 million over three years, and closer Wade Davis got \$52 million over three years from Colorado.

Mets fans have been clamoring for the team to spend some money to improve the club following its fourth-place finish in the NL East. To this point, New York's biggest move had been the \$14 mil-

AP
Jay Bruce is heading back to the New York Mets after agreeing to a \$39 million, three-year contract, according to two people familiar with the negotiations.

lion, two-year contract it gave to free-agent reliever Anthony Swarzak.

"I'm happy," Mets ace Noah Syndergaard tweeted Wednesday night, with a "wackyBruce" hashtag.

Bruce was obtained by the Mets from Cincinnati for a pair of prospects on Aug. 1, 2016. He slumped badly down the stretch that year until finally going on a tear during the final week of the season to help New York secure a wild card for its second consecutive playoff appearance.

The following offseason, many questioned whether the Texas native who had previously spent his entire professional career with the Reds could handle the New York spotlight. It was expected Bruce would be traded to clear

a logjam in the outfield, but he remained with the Mets and flourished for the first four months (.841 OPS) of 2017 while emerging as a respected leader in the locker room during a miserable season for the team.

New York began the year with great expectations that were quickly derailed by long-term injuries to Syndergaard, Cespedes and others. By the summer, general manager Sandy Alderson had traded away several pending free agents—Bruce among them—in an effort to shed payroll and acquire young arms.

After being sent to Cleveland, however, Bruce said he enjoyed his time in New York and was open to coming back. He said his familiarity with the Mets and the city could make a difference in his decision.

Bruce is a .249 career hitter with 277 homers and 838 RBI in 10 big league seasons.

Terms of the agreement were first reported by ESPN.

Marlins host Cubs on March 29 in major league opener

NEW YORK (AP)—The Miami Marlins will host the Chicago Cubs in this year's major league opener on March 29, the earliest start in the sport's history excluding international openers.

The game at Marlins Park is scheduled for 12:40 p.m., a half-hour before the New York Mets start at home against St. Louis and Detroit hosts Pittsburgh in the lone interleague opener.

World Series champion Houston opens at Texas. Every team is scheduled to open on the same day for the first time since 1968, and the sea-

son starts on a Thursday for the first time since 2011.

The rest of the NL opening-day schedule has Philadelphia at Atlanta, Washington at Cincinnati, San Francisco at the Los Angeles Dodgers, Milwaukee at San Diego and Colorado at Arizona.

The AL opening-day schedule has Minnesota at Baltimore, the New York Yankees at Toronto, the Los Angeles Angels at Oakland, the Chicago White Sox at Kansas City and Cleveland at Seattle.

In Milwaukee, reliever Boone Logan has finalized a

\$2.5 million, one-year contract with the Milwaukee Brewers, who also agreed to a minor league deal with right-hander J.J. Hoover.

A 33-year-old side-arming left-hander, Logan went 1-0 with a 4.71 ERA in 38 games for Cleveland last year, striking out 28 in 21 innings. He is 29-23 with a 4.47 ERA and three saves in 619 relief appearances for the Chicago White Sox (2006-08), Atlanta (2009), the New York Yankees (2010-13), Colorado (2014-16) and Cleveland (2017).

Logan has a \$1,875,000 salary this year, and the Brew-

ers have a \$2,125,000 option for 2019 with a \$625,000 buyout.

He can earn an additional \$3.2 million annually in performance bonuses, of which \$2.2 million are for games and \$1 million for innings.

Logan would get \$50,000 for 25 games, \$100,000 each for 30 and 35, \$150,000 apiece for 40, 45 and 50, \$200,000 each for 55 and 60, \$250,000 apiece for 65 and 70, and \$300,000 each for 75 and 80.

In Oakland, slugger Khris Davis and the Oakland Athletics agreed to a \$10.5 mil-

lion, one-year contract, more than doubling his salary after he beat the team in arbitration last winter.

Davis won a \$5 million salary during a hearing last February, when the club offered \$4.65 million. The agreement announced Wednesday avoided another hearing next month, and Davis' deal is fully guaranteed.

Davis is Oakland's slugging centerpiece. He hit a career-best 43 home runs, connecting on the season's final day to surpass the season high he set the previous year for Oakland.

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CNMI weightlifting event next month

Halep, Wozniacki lead race to seize Serena's Australian Open crown

MELBOURNE (AP) — Simona Halep and Caroline Wozniacki spearhead the charge to succeed Serena Williams at an Australian Open left wide open by the withdrawal of the defending champion and new mom.

A pregnant Williams sealed her 23rd Grand Slam singles title and seventh Melbourne Park crown a year ago, but last week announced she wouldn't defend her title, saying she was "super close" but not quite ready to compete after giving birth in September.

With the 36-year-old having to wait to equal Margaret Court's all-time record of 24 Grand Slam singles titles, the tournament is there for the taking by a host of players, led by world number one Halep, second-ranked Wozniacki and fourth-ranked Elina Svitolina.

Last year there were two first-time major-winners while Serena was on maternity leave—Jelena Ostapenko at the French Open and Sloane Stephens at the US Open.

But their chances in Melbourne look slim: Stephens



hasn't won a match on tour since her Flushing Meadows triumph, and Ostapenko was far from her attacking best in her first-round defeats in Shenzhen and Sydney in the past week.

Wimbledon champion and world number three Garbine Muguruza retired with severe cramps in Brisbane last week, in what could be a further boost to Halep's hopes of a maiden Grand Slam.

The 26-year-old Romanian is full of confidence after lifting the title at Shenzhen in dominant fashion, but will need to overcome her sorry record at Melbourne Park where she has lost in the first round in both of the past two years when seeded in the top four.

Wozniacki is riding high after her resurgence in 2017 when she reached eight finals, with victories in Tokyo in September and at the season-ending Tour Championship.

The Danish former world number one lost in the Auckland Classic final on Sunday to Germany's Julia Goerges, but said she felt great heading to Melbourne as she too looks to make her Slam breakthrough.

CLOSE

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11am to 10pm. Ronald Bernardo and Joshua Chavez also finished in twin digits for the 670 Sonics XVI with 14 and 10, respectively. King led all scorers with his 30 markers and had seven of his team's 12 triples.

In the other boys division game, M&M Salas Ol'Aces eased past Saipan Vegas Elite, 64-46, to remain undefeated in five matches.

M&M Salas Ol'Aces led right from the get-go, giving Saipan Vegas Elite no chance to pull off an upset. All the 11 players that suited up for the winning team scored with Coby Santos leading the way with his 10 markers. Duncan Laxa also had 10 points for Saipan Vegas Elite, which fell to a 1-4 mark to stay at the bottom half of the team standings in the eight-squad field.

Meanwhile, in the women's division, both GSM Lady Ol'Aces and Marianas Variety recorded easy wins.

The GSM Lady Ol'Aces downed IT&E, 51-40, to improve to a 6-0 and remain on top of the team rankings. Marianas Variety, on the other hand, earned a 3-3 mark fol-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Brandy Onopwy prepares to lift during a local weightlifting event last October at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saiplantribune.com
REPORTER

CNMI Weightlifting will start the season with the staging of the CNMI Weightlifting 2018-1 set for Feb. 17 at the Latte Built 24-Hour Fitness and Nutrition Center at the back of the Marianas Visitors Authority office in San Jose.

Latte Built owner Derek

lowing a 44-13 demolition of winless Shirley's Coffee Shop (0-6).

Anna Lei Santos powered the Lady Ol'Aces to its sixth win in as many games after firing 13 points. Four of her teammates contributed at least 4 points each for the Lady Ol'Aces' balances offense. In contrast, Jeraldine Castillo carried most of the load for IT&E as she tallied 24 points.

In the Marianas Variety-Shirley's Coffee Shop tiff, the former held the latter to one field goal in the first half en route to its lopsided win.

Jeralyn Castillo made the lone field goal (triple) for the hapless Shirley's in the first half, while five players combined for 20 points for Marianas Variety in that period. With Shirley's still relying on Castillo in the second half, Marianas Variety was still in full control and took back-to-back wins after dropping three straight games.

First Game

M&M Salas Ol'Aces 64 — Santos 10, Siech 9, Sacdal 8, Atan 8, Blake 6, Bondoc 4, Kabiriel 3, Peter 3, Ichihara 2, Manalo 2, Abejo.

Saipan Vegas Elite 46 — Laxa 10, Ogasawara 7, Pange-

linan 6, Elchico 4, Mungwaath 4, Olopai 4, Soriano 3, T. Quiguga 2.

Scoring by halves: 23-12, 64-46.

Second Game

GSM Lady Ol'Aces 51 — An. Santos 13, Fernandez 9, E. Santos 8, Kenty 6, C. Camacho 4, S. Camacho 4, Pangelinan 3, Rangamar 2.

IT&E 40 — Jeraldine Castillo 24, Lumabi 9, Garon 4, Marasigan 3.

Scoring by halves: 20-16, 51-40.

Third Game

Marianas Variety 44 — Han 9, Reyes 9, Kautz 6, Vilagomez 6, Flores 4, Manibusan 4, Chinen 2.

Shirley's 13 — Castillo 11, Enriquez 2.

Scoring by quarters: 20-3, 44-13.

Fourth Game

670 Sonics XVI 62 — Dancel 17, R. Bernardo 14, Chavez 10, Mendoza 6, Kim 4, Lagmay 2, Seo 2, Favor 2, B. Bernardo 1.

Saipan Vegas Extreme 61 — King 30, Atan 15, Menchor 3, Tisa 2, Lahara 2, Laniyo 2.

Scoring by halves: 29-26, 62-61.

Cutting is helping CNMI Weightlifting hold its first of a series of events by allowing the federation to use his facility for next month's competition, which will also serve as a qualifier for this year's Micronesian Games in Yap. The one-day tournament is open to athletes 13 years old and up and no awards or medals will be given away.

The weigh-in will start at 10am on the day of the competition, while lifts would begin after 30 minutes.

Latte Built gym members are free to join, while non-members will be charged \$1 just to compete.

Registration forms are

available at Latte Built or can be obtained by getting in touch with any CNMI Weightlifting board member.

The event is part of CNMI Weightlifting's continued efforts in promoting the medal rich Olympic sport that has produced victories for the Commonwealth in various regional events. The competition will also be held in preparation for Saipan's hosting of the 2021 Pacific Mini Games.

Angel San Nicolas, in last month's Pacific Mini Games in Port Vila, Vanuatu, won a bronze in the men's 94kg division, to prevent a medal shutout for the nine-member CNMI delegation. San Nicolas

had a successful lift of 141kg in the clean and jerk to earn Team CNMI its first medal since winning the baseball gold in the 2011 Mini Games in Noumea, New Caledonia.

CNMI Weightlifting had its first Olympic-style weightlifting event in October last year with Ray Santos, Joey Tudela, San Nicolas, Brandy Onopwy, and Josh Mateo participating in the exhibition. They were given three tries within the one-minute time limit in the snatch and clean and jerk.

For more information, call CNMI Weightlifting president John H. Davis at 789-9211 or email johnhdavisjr@gmail.com.

GSM

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entries scheduled for Feb. 28.

KONQER chief experience officer Kaz Endo said they would randomly pick 500 free entries into their choice of leg, with one lucky individual winning a free slot to the entire three-stage series.

"It's our fourth year overall in Guam, and our second year in the CNMI and Palau. What better way to spread our mission of promoting wellness through play by making our events accessible to as many people as possible?" said Endo.

Children who are under 14 years old can still participate free of charge, while Business League teams are not eligible for the raffle draw.

Meanwhile, KONQER Sports will also be giving away 500 free individual entries to any of the three legs this year. To get a chance to win free entries, interested individuals must fill out an online form at konqersports.com. Deadline for submission of entries is on Jan. 31 with the random drawing and announcement of free

ond innings, while Pepi Tenorio added a two-RBI single in the third to help IPI establish the four-run lead heading into the bottom half of the third.

Macaranas, however, brought GSM back into the game and also got plenty of help from his teammates with Terlaje and Rep. Vinnie Sabinan making RBI single each.

Ben Duenas and Mel Sakisat shared the mound for IPI, surrendering 11 runs on 12 hits while retiring two and walking four batters.

In other news, SBL coordinator Tony Rogolfoi is calling all representatives of interested teams to attend a meeting for the upcoming league on Tuesday at 5:30pm at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

For more information, call Rogolfoi at 234-6672 or 285-3966.

M-League Fall Season Finals

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



TanHoldings Football Club' Alan Hinson, right, is closely guarded by the Teen Ayuyus' John Guiller Canape, left, and Razeff Altamirano during their title game in the Division A of M-League late last month at the Hopwood Middle School Field.



TanHoldings' Kautong Omengkar, center, scans the field first before making a move.



TanHoldings' Lukas Jambor, left, tries to keep the possession against the defense of the Teen Ayuyus' Jonathan Capayas.



The Teen Ayuyus' Joshua Abragan, left, battles TanHoldings' Joshua De Leon, right, and Eun Syu Hahn for possession.



TanHoldings and the Teen Ayuyus players jockey for position while waiting for the free kick from Martin Jambor.



TanHoldings' Martin Jambor, left, dribbles away from the defense of the Teen Ayuyus' Razeff Altamirano.



The Teen Ayuyus' Louie Calayag is carried off the field by the Teen Ayuyus' Jonathan Capayas, right, and TanHoldings' Joshua De Leon.



Eun Syu Hahn leads TanHoldings' attack.



**Clippers beat
Warriors to
spoil Durant
milestone**

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Saipan Tribune Sports

**Bruce agrees
to 3-year,
\$39M deal
with Mets**

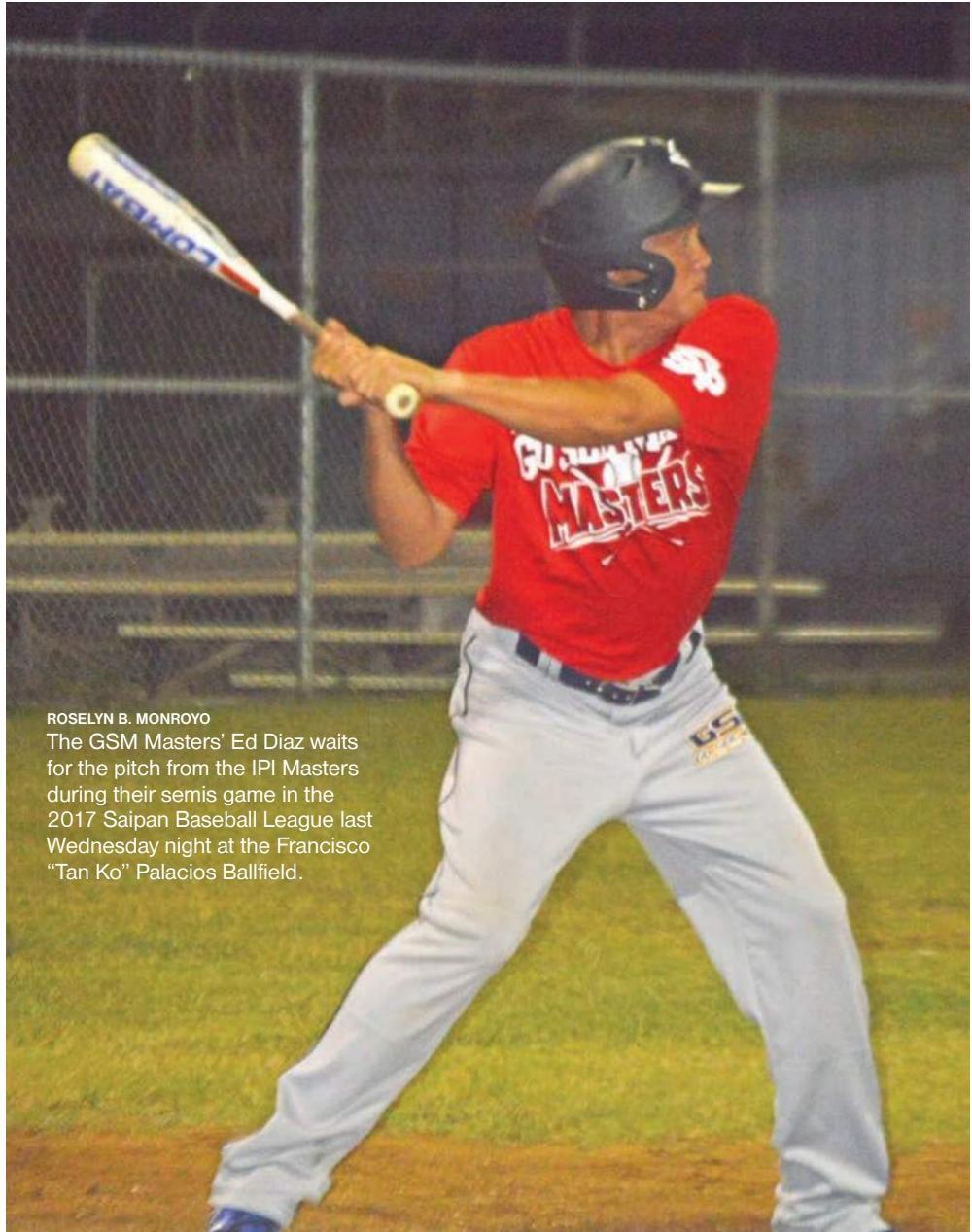
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32 FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 2018

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

GSM clinches second finals berth



ROSELYN B. MONROY
The GSM Masters' Ed Diaz waits for the pitch from the IPI Masters during their semis game in the 2017 Saipan Baseball League last Wednesday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

By ROSELYN B. MONROY
roeslyn_monroy@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Pete Sablan pitched three solid innings in relief, while Walter Macaranas did his share at the plate to help the GSM Masters complete a 19-12 drubbing of the IPI Masters in the Saipan Baseball League's Masters division semis game last Wednesday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Sablan replaced starter Joe Terlaje at the top of the fourth inning, giving up two runs on three hits while striking out six and allowing one walk. Terlaje tossed the first three innings and surrendered eight runs on 11 hits, retiring two batters while walking two more. Tony Flores closed out for GSM and after allowing Manny Tenorio to score on a wild pitch, the former settled in with a 1-2-3 inning in the seventh. He struck out Ed Santos and Phil Celis, and forced Manny Villagomez to ground out to third to end the game.

Earlier, Macaranas, with GSM down at 5-9 after 2 1/2, slapped a two-RBI double in a five-run third inning to help their team hold on to a one-run lead entering the fourth, 10-9. GSM never relinquished the driver's seat from thereon.

The win propelled GSM to a winner-take-all title match

on Monday against the undefeated Boleros, who topped the Papa Bears, 13-3, to clinch the first finals berth. IPI and the Papa Bears will face-off

in another one-game battle for third place at 6:30pm tonight.

John Acosta had a pair of RBI triples in the first and sec-

See GSM on Page 30

Saipan is KONQER's first stop



JON PEREZ

Participants brave the muddy course of last year's KONQER Saipan King of the Hill held at the Gov. Eloy S. Inos Peace Park. KONQER Sports will be giving away 500 free slots to lucky participants for this year's three-leg series, which will start on Saipan in April.

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

KONQER Sports will kicking off its series of premier obstacle course races on Saipan in April.

The Saipan leg is set for April 28 and will be followed by the second leg in Guam on June 16. The third and last stop will be a two-day race in Palau on Oct. 5 and 6.

KONQER held its first event on Saipan dubbed as "The King of the Hill" last September and it took place

at the Gov. Eloy S. Inos Peace Park in Puerto Rico. Close to 500 individuals joined the race, either completing the obstacle course solo or as a group. KONQER Saipan was eventful, as intermittent rain made the course more challenging, forcing participants to race around the muddy and wet 90-foot park.

Despite the tough race condition, U.S. Marine Corps Maj. Timothy Patrick

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ROSELYN B. MONROY
The 670 Sonics XVI's Aldrin Gio Dancel drives against Saipan Vegas Extreme's Francisco Mizutani during the second half of their game in the 2017 TanHoldings Christmas Basketball Tournament last Wednesday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Close win for 670 Sonics XVI

By ROSELYN B. MONROY
roeslyn_monroy@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

 The 670 Sonics XVI survived Saipan Vegas Extreme's hot shooting from the 3-point area to eke out a 62-61 victory in the boys division game in the 2017 TanHoldings Christmas Basketball Tournament last Wednesday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

The win was the 670 Sonics XVI's second after five matches, while Saipan Vegas Extreme dropped its fifth in as many games.

The 670 Sonics XVI hung on to its precarious lead in the closing seconds of their tiff, using the clock to its advantage after Saipan Vegas Extreme threatened the former following Steve King's triple. **See CLOSE on Page 30**